

Turkish Cypriot journalist shot dead

NICOSIA (R) — A leading Turkish Cypriot journalist has been shot dead near his home in Nicosia in what his left-wing party said on Sunday was a political killing. Kutlu Adali, a 61-year-old columnist for the Yeni Duzen daily, was shot dead late on Saturday night by unknown assailants, police said. "This is definitely a political murder," said Mehmet Ali Talat, leader of the Republican Turkish Party (CTP) which publishes Yeni Duzen. "It is a very severe blow to democracy," he told reporters. The CTP was in a right-left coalition administration of the Turkish Cypriot breakaway state that resigned last week amid political infighting. It was the first killing of a journalist in north Cyprus since Turkey invaded in 1974 in response to a Greek-engineered coup attempt on the island. The Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Turkey. Police gave few details of the killing.

Jordan Times

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Peace leads to security, King tells Jewish leaders

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday reiterated Jordan's commitment to the cause of peace, saying that peace was the only alternative and the only worthy cause and course "for us to follow."

Addressing a delegation representing the U.S. Simon Wiesenthal Centre, King Hussein called on all the nations and governments of the region to work for the realisation of a comprehensive peace.

"It is the responsibility of the entire nations and governments of this region to do what they can to ensure progress, to break the barriers, to remove the walls and to discover what we have done at the human side opposite that wall that we had created for so many years."

King Hussein said security is the result of confidence and trust, voicing hope that this confidence and trust will develop and be built upon in the times ahead. "When we speak of security, we speak of peace. Peace produces security and security is part of peace, for it to be a really meaningful one," the King said.

Regarding international terrorism, King Hussein voiced hope that a consensus that has emerged among the overwhelming majority of nations and governments would lead to laying "the foundation of something that is binding to all, which says that if you harbour or abate, if you encourage terrorism, then you have reckoned with all of us, and all of us are called upon to take an

action or take a position regarding you, whoever it be."

The King added such a foundation is badly needed and expressed hope that it would develop in the times ahead. "There is no country that is free from terrorism, of some nature or another. Therefore, it is essential that we do whatever we can to consolidate a solid front," the King added.

Regarding the new Israeli government, the King said Jordan chose not to interfere in any form in the Israeli people's right to decide for themselves where to put their complete trust and confidence "to lead them in the times ahead."

The King noted that throughout his contacts with world leaders he made

it clear that it is not true that the camp of peace is losing to the other camp.

The King said the Israelis used their democratic right to choose their prime minister and Jordan will do everything it can to help the parties to the peace process move ahead.

"It is unfair, unjust and incorrect to suggest that there is any change, neither there or here in terms of the objective, which is peace, the peace that we can leave for all our children and those to follow in the entire region in the times ahead."

King Hussein voiced hope that a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Washington this week would be successful. He said he will later be meeting Mr. Netanyahu "here in the



MODEL WEARS BOA AT GIVENCHY HIGH FASHION SHOW: A model presents this magenta velvet wrap dress with flower boa and matching hat as part of the French fashion house Givenchy Autumn/Winter 1996 high fashion collection Sunday (Reuters photo)

PNA: No renegotiation of pullout from Hebron

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday that it would refuse to renegotiate their agreement on a troop withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron.

"We are not ready to negotiate what has already been negotiated and signed," Planning Minister Nabil Shaath told the daily Al Ayyam, on the eve of Mr. Netanyahu's first visit as prime minister to the United States.

Dr. Shaath said this included "Hebron, the Israeli army redeployment on the West Bank, a safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank and the release of prisoners."

Mr. Netanyahu must "scrupulously respect" the autonomy accord signed by his predecessor Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Dr. Shaath added.

U.S. President Bill Clinton expects the right-wing Israeli leader to spell out how he plans to proceed on the Palestinian track when they meet at the White House Tuesday.

Washington has urged him to implement the army redeployment from Hebron which should have taken place before March 28 under the Oslo autonomy accord.

Mr. Netanyahu says he is

U.S. unlikely to challenge Netanyahu's views on peace

By Lamis Andoni

BOSTON — On the eve of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington, the first since his election last June, analysts in the American capital expect the U.S. administration to pursue a policy of accommodation in spite of the differences between the two sides.

The analysts, including Arabists and pro-Israeli lobbyists, do not expect the administration to place any substantive pressure on Mr. Netanyahu regarding a withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights or the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

However, they expect the two sides to reach an understanding regarding an Israeli partial withdrawal from Hebron and a new approach to the Israeli-Syrian negotiations track that was totally paralysed just before the Israeli elections.

According to well-placed sources in Washington, an Israeli commitment for a partial redeployment from Hebron will be seen as a good first step to move the stalled peace process forward.

"The administration does not want to see the

France hails Saudi's 'moderate Islamism'

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (R) — French President Jacques Chirac on Sunday urged closer cooperation with Saudi Arabia in fighting "terrorism" and praised the kingdom's "moderate Islamism," French officials said.

Nineteen U.S. soldiers died last month in a truck bomb attack at Dhahran military base in eastern Saudi Arabia. It is unclear who carried out the attack, the second on an American military target in the kingdom since last November, when a U.S.-assisted military training centre in Riyadh was bombed, killing five Americans and two Indians.

The Group of Seven industrial nations, at their late-June summit in Lyon, pledged new efforts to fight political violence following the bombing.

Mr. Chirac, addressing members of the French community on Saturday, paid homage to the American dead and said the industrialised nations would "use all legal means to build up the battle against terrorism."

France has 134 soldiers in Saudi Arabia.

(Continued on page 7)

Samar Oran wins case against Toujan Faisal

Judge orders deputy to pay damages in slander lawsuit



By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Lower House of Parliament Deputy Toujan Faisal Sunday received a two-month jail sentence and a JD 6,000 fine in a slander lawsuit at a Wadi Seer court.

Ms. Faisal was charged with two counts in the lawsuit which was filed by Samar Oran claiming libel and defamation.

According to Ms. Oran's lawyer, Husam Zreikat, the verdict passed by Judge Hayel Al Omar has been suspended pending appeal.

Mr. Zreikat said his client had accused the defendant of tarnishing her image and meddling in her life by pub-

licly criticising her in a tabloid article, demanding JD 15,000 in compensation for this damage. He said the charges constituted a violation of articles 359 and 358 of the penal code.

Ms. Oran had initially written to the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament complaining about excesses she claimed had been committed by members of the executive and legislative branches of government in raising and discussing a marital problem she faced and which involved a former Cabinet minister. Ms. Faisal, in remarks attributed to her in a weekly tabloid, commented on the letter "with words considered as slanderous and insulting"

to Ms. Oran, prompting the latter to sue the deputy.

Mr. Zreikat quoted Ms. Faisal as saying in the tabloid: "Samar Oran is trying to link her name with important people and later practise blackmail on them with the purpose of gaining fame...but Parliament would not allow Samar to benefit from this as she did from the government."

Mr. Zreikat said that these remarks resulted in damage to Ms. Oran's reputation and dignity and exposed her and members of her family to public contempt. Accordingly the litigant demanded that Ms. Faisal be punished for her behaviour and remarks, especially because she is a member of Parli-

ment and because she spoke on behalf of the House without obtaining its permission.

Lawyer Zreikat, quoted Ms. Faisal as saying that: "The Parliament speaker cannot present Ms. Oran's memorandum to the House because the government itself tried to hush up this matter."

Legislators in Jordan enjoy legal immunity only when the House is in session but currently it is in a summer recess and it is due to convene in mid-July. Ms. Faisal was not available for comment yesterday and there were unconfirmed reports that she was on a visit outside the country.

Egypt rebuffs Syria's attempt to reconcile Cairo, Tehran

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak said on Sunday his country had turned down an idea by Syria that Egyptian and Iranian ministers meet to resolve nearly two decades of differences.

"There was an idea (for a meeting) but we apologised because Iran still works against some countries and they are putting this idea about," Mr. Mubarak told reporters. "But there are no meetings on any ministerial level and there are no meetings of any form."

Egypt, locked in a low-level guerrilla war with subversive Islamist militants seeking to oust Mr. Mubarak and install a purist Islamic state, has often accused Iran of trying to export its Islamic revolution of 1979 to other countries in the region.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, who has paid two visits to Tehran in the past week, said a thaw in relations was in the interests of both countries.

Mr. Sharaa said after meeting Mr. Mubarak in Cairo on Thursday that his country, Iran's closest Arab ally, wanted to improve relations between Tehran and the Arab World, particularly Egypt.

But Osama Al Baz, Mr. Mubarak's top political adviser, denied on Saturday that Damascus was working to end nearly two decades of mistrust between Egypt and Iran, saying relations could not improve until Tehran stopped "supporting terrorists."

But Dr. Baz said Iran must first prove to sceptical Arab governments that it was not seeking to undermine the stability of its oil-rich Gulf neighbours or of Arab countries further afield.

"If Tehran wants to improve relations it must offer us clear proof that it will not interfere in our internal affairs and will not

(Continued on page 7)

Egypt says 15,000 militants in Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said 15,000 Muslim militants are living in its southern neighbour Sudan, which is under limited United Nations sanctions for its alleged support of political violence.

Ousama El Baz, senior political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said in Sunday's edition of the weekly magazine Rose Al Youssef that Sudan's failure to provide information on how it would deal with the militants showed its wish for trouble-making out-

weighed its desire to cooperate with Egypt.

"There are about 15,000 militants in Sudan and they (the government) don't know what to do with them," Dr. Baz said.

Relations between Egypt and Sudan hit rock bottom last year when Cairo accused Khartoum of helping militants who tried to kill Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

Egypt has also accused Sudan's Islamist-backed military government of sheltering militants bent on turning Egypt into a strict

Islamic state.

Sudan has denied the charges but the United Nations Security Council imposed limited travel and diplomatic sanctions on Khartoum in May aimed at making it hand over suspects wanted for the Mubarak assassination attempt.

Mr. Mubarak and Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir met on the sidelines of a pan-Arab summit in Cairo last month to try to resolve some of their differences.

Mr. Mubarak said at the

time that progress towards better relations depended on what the Sudanese government does to prevent the militants from using Sudan as a base.

An independent Sudanese newspaper said on Friday that Egyptian and Sudanese security officials had two days of talks in Khartoum this week. The talks were the first of their kind since Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Bashir met.

It said the agenda included security problems preventing improved relations

— the diplomatic euphemism for Egyptian suspicions that Sudan is sheltering militants.

But Dr. Baz said the Sudanese were not helping.

"High-level security meetings between the two countries have started but the Sudanese have provided only general information that does not include the requested details," he said.

"This indicates that the wish to make trouble is bigger than the wish to cooperate," Dr. Baz added.

Netanyahu to take to U.S. 'terrorism file' on Syria

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to take to the United States a file prepared by Israel's secret services on Syria's involvement in terrorism, the daily Haaretz reported Sunday.

Mr. Netanyahu, who heads to Washington on Monday, ordered the file so he could present U.S. officials with detailed information on Syria's alleged aid for "terrorists" responsible for attacks against Israel, the United States and other

countries, the newspaper said.

The dossier prepared by the head of Israel's external security service Mossad, Dany Yatom, and military intelligence chief Moshe Yaalon, will be given to the head of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), John Deutch.

According to Haaretz, Mr. Netanyahu will ask U.S. leaders and Congress to put "strong pressure" on Syria to stop supporting terrorism.

While the previous Labour

government played down Syria's role in supporting militant groups, the new Netanyahu government has put responsibility for the violence firmly on Syria.

The right wing Israeli leader accused Damascus last month of "lashing out" with terrorism 360 degrees and called for economic sanctions against Syria similar to the U.S. embargo on Iran.

Accusing the West of turning a blind eye to Syria's involvement in terrorism,

Mr. Netanyahu said: "I want to persuade our allies, and especially the United States, that its policy is detrimental not only to our interests but to the interests of others."

Mr. Netanyahu accuses Syria of backing the Shiite Muslim Hizbollah group which spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in South Lebanon. He also blames Syria for attacks carried out by Palestinian headline groups based in Damascus.

He pointed the finger at Syria after a June 26 attack

claimed by the Syrian-based Palestinian group Al Intifadah which left three Israeli soldiers dead near the Jordanian border.

Israel's on-off peace talks with Syria have been frozen since a wave of Islamic militant suicide bombings in the Jewish state in February and March.

Syria says it will refuse to come back to the negotiating table unless Mr. Netanyahu drops his opposition to handing back the Golan Heights as part of a peace deal.

U.S. planning flaws left forces vulnerable — report

NEW YORK (R) — Shortcomings in planning, intelligence and security left U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia vulnerable to the attack that killed 19 and seriously wounded 148 others in Dhahran 12 days ago, the New York Times reported in Sunday editions.

In a special report from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the newspaper said that an examination of the June 25 attack of the building that housed U.S. forces showed

U.S. officials repeatedly failed to understand the magnitude of the threat facing them.

The newspaper, which interviewed officials in the United States and Saudi Arabia, reviewed past bombings and obtained an analysis by leading private security experts, cited these mistakes as leading to the deadly blast.

The Central Intelligence Agency and other U.S. government experts who were consulted by the air force

misjudged the bomb-making capabilities of Saudi militants. The article said government officials had concluded that the militants could not build a bomb larger than a 200-pound (90-kilogramme) device, similar to November 1995 blast in Riyadh that killed five Americans and two Indians.

Officials estimate that last month's bomb packed 5,000 pounds (2,300 kilogrammes) of explosives.

American commanders in

Dhahran deferred action until at least October to coat the compound windows with a plastic protective film that prevents a blast from turning a building's windows into lethal shards of flying glass. The project was considered too costly by the commanders.

U.S. commanders in Dhahran did not want to offend their Saudi hosts when they balked at the need for a larger buffer zone around the military complex.

Arafat makes stopover in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat stopped briefly at Khartoum airport to meet Sudanese officials before heading on to an African summit in Cameroon.

Mr. Arafat, who was in Khartoum for around 45 minutes, was met at the airport by Information Minister Ibrahim Mohammed Khair.

It was Mr. Arafat's first official visit to Sudan since he signed the 1993 declaration of principles with Israel.

The Palestinian president thanked "African nations for siding with the Palestinians' cause" in comments to journalists, adding that "Arab-African solidarity should be strengthened."

He then continued on to Yaounde to attend the summit, to begin Monday, which is expected to announce its support of the Palestinians' stance in the peace process with Israel.

Khartoum's Islamic regime pushed last year to host reconciliation talks between Mr. Arafat's Palestinian National Authority and the fundamentalist Hamas, but the Palestinians opted to hold the talks in Cairo.

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15:00	10:10	Sat, Mon, Wed	Vienna - Amman

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:00.....Bonkers (cartoon)
15:30.....Richie Rich
15:45.....Playabout
16:00.....Gillette Worlds Sport
16:30.....Bustin' Loose
17:00.....News flash
17:02.....Sciencess Cartoon
17:15.....L'Ecole Des Fais
18:00.....Magazine — Thalassa
19:00.....News in French
19:15.....Magazine — Cinq Sur Cinq
19:30.....News Headlines
19:35.....Doc. — Milner Fenwick
20:00.....Matlok
20:30.....Paul McKenna Show
21:10 100 Years of Capitalism in Korea
22:00.....News in English
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10.....Mancuso

PRAYER TIMES

03:58.....Fajr
05:31.....Sunrise/Duha
12:40.....Dhuhr
16:12.....Asr
19:49.....Maghreb
21:23.....Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweilth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
637855
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623666

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
824328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazarene Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the
Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to
rise slightly with winds north-

westerly moderate to active. In
Aqaba, hot weather conditions

will prevail, winds northerly
moderate to active, and seas

calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman..... 20/33

Aqaba..... 25/40

Deserts..... 19/35

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley.....24/39

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 32, Aqaba 39.

Humidity readings: Amman 47

per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mukhlis Mazahrah

820425

Dr. Wissam Hziyyin 748563

Dr. Munther Al Qraini

779599

Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyim

620115

Ferdows pharmacy.....778336

Al Asema pharmacy.....637055

Nairookh pharmacy.....623672

Al Salam pharmacy.....636730

Yacoub pharmacy.....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660

Nairookh pharmacy.....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Tammeh.....250080

Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ziyad Jghaitim.....992991

Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111

Civil Defence Department.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

630341

Civil Defence Emergency.....199

Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade.....617101

Blood Bank.....775121

Highway Police.....843402

Traffic Police.....896390

Public Security Dept.....630321

Hotel Complaints.....605800

Price Complaints.....661176

Water & Sewage Complaints.....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints

787111

Telephone Information (directory

assistance).....121

Overseas Calls.....010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs.....631011

Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101

Jordan Television.....773111

Radio Jordan.....774111

Water Authority.....680100

J. Electricity Authority.....815615

Electric Power Co.....636381

RJ Flight Information.....08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITAL

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre.....813813/32

Khalidi Maternity.....644281/6

Akileh Maternity.....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362

Malhas, J. Amman.....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071

Shmeisani Hospital.....669131

University Hospital.....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital.....667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali.....666126/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali.....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....777101/3

Al-Bashir.....775111/26

Army, Marka.....891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital.....602240/50

Amal Hospital.....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and

Special Surgery.....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital

(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital

(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital

(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital

(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:00.....Bonkers (cartoon)
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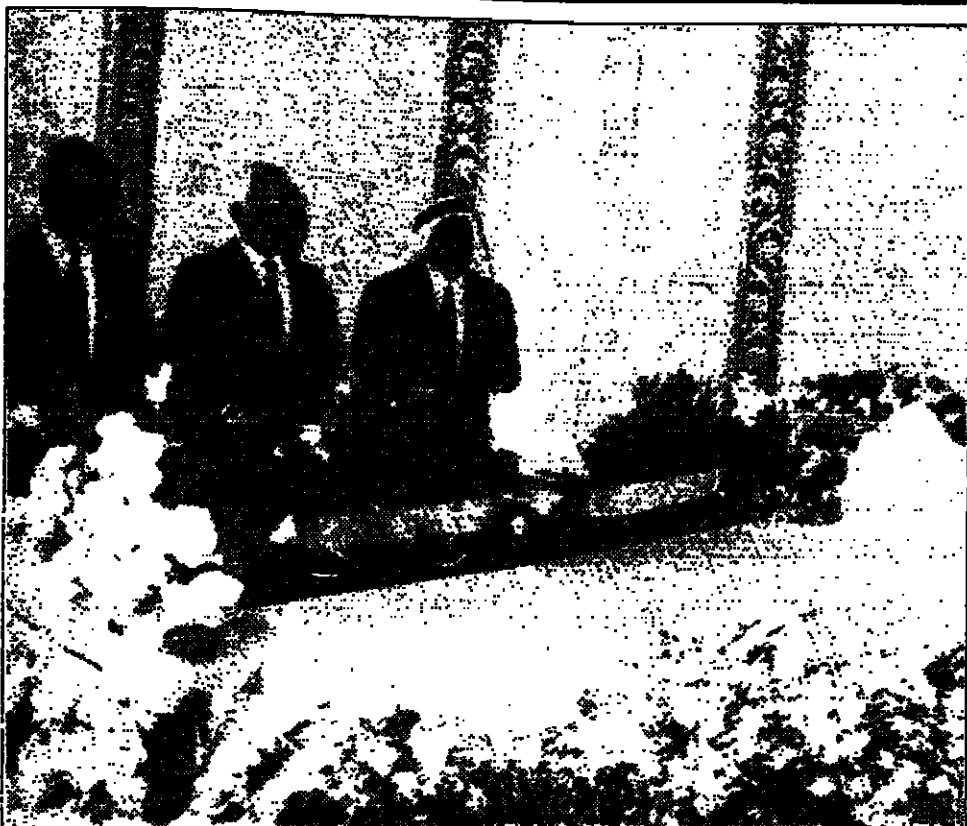
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WEATHER

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Aqaba,



His Majesty King Hussein, HRH Crown Prince Hassan Sunday visit tomb of late King Talal Ben Abdullah who died 24 years ago on July 7, 1972. The King, the Crown Prince and other members of the Royal Family recited verses from the Holy Koran and laid wreaths by the tomb (Petra photo)

National Task Force for Children appointed Queen Noor reviews NTFC mandate at first official meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — In accordance with His Majesty King Hussein's Royal Decree in July 1995 calling for the establishment of a National Task Force for Children (NTFC), Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday convened the first official meeting of the members of the NTFC, a Royal Court statement said.

The NTFC will monitor the condition and status of children in accordance with the Arab and International Convention on the Rights of Child and the National Plan Action for Children.

It will coordinate, collaborate with and bring together existing institutions working in the field of child welfare through the establishment of the National Coalition for Children (NCC), whose membership will be voluntary and will involve registering with the NTFC.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday presides over the first official meeting of the National Task Force for Children at Al Ma'wa Palace (photo by Crystal)

The latter will comprise a policy group to help the NCC develop national policies for children, a programme group to assist in formulating the NCC's strategies, and a secretariat that will be in charge of the NTFC's implementation.

The NTFC, through its Research and Database Centre for Children, will compile comprehensive research to highlight children's needs and rights and disseminate data to all concerned institutions.

It will develop model action programme and launch public awareness campaigns to advocate their implementation.

Queen Noor met Sunday, the Royal Court said, with the newly-appointed NTFC at Al Ma'wa Palace to review NTFC's background, mission and mandate, highlighting the role of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in providing technical and financial assistance for establishing the NTFC.

The Queen expressed her

appreciation for the efforts of the NTFC Advisory Committee, comprised of concerned officials and specialists, who worked over the past year to refine the strategy and organisation of the NTFC.

NTFC preparatory activities have also included ongoing broad-based consultations with national and international individuals and institutions working with children to define an overall strategy and organisation for the NTFC.

Also, a plan has been developed for the NTFC's Research and Database Centre for Children with the support of the Chapin Hall Centre for Children at the University of Chicago in the U.S. state of Illinois, in addition to preparations for a series of television documentaries to raise public awareness of child rights.

NTFC preparations have also included the formation of a multi-disciplinary committee that worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development to review and develop the Draft Children's Act.

Task force members received the amendments to the Draft Act for their consideration and recommendations, which, upon completion will be submitted to the Ministry of Social Development, the statement said. The NTFC is comprised of: — in their official capacity: — Minister of Social Development Hammud Abu Jamous, Minister of Education Munther Masri, Secretary General of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Rashdan Rashdan, Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning Nabil Amman, and Secretary General of the Ministry of Health Hani Oweis; and in their personal capacity including their designated areas of responsibility: Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi (national heritage and religion), Senator Naela Rashdan (legislation), Fawzi Tu'eimeh (mental health), Mohieddin Touk (research and education), Salwa Damen-Masri (social development), Judge Taghrid Hikmat (legislation), Sa'ad Hijazy (health research and training), Abdullah Khateeb (children with special needs), Najwa Boulos (pediatric care), Sima Babous (communications), Alia Hatouq (environment), Basil Bustami (legislation), and Intisar Jardaneh (parents and community).

Qatar, Jordan sign minutes reflecting common political stands, economic interests

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Jordanian-Qatari Committee ended a meeting in Amman Sunday by reaffirming the two countries' determination to promote bilateral relations in political, economic and social fields and by reiterating their determination to work for the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East region and support pan-Arab action to achieve that objective.

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Qatar's Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani signed the minutes of the higher committee's deliberations held Saturday and Sunday, pledging support for the Arab League and its various institutions, joint Arab action to defend the Arab nation's rights, support for the decisions of the Cairo Arab summit meeting and efforts to restore solidarity among Arab states and unify Arab ranks in the face of common challenges.

The minutes reflected Jordanian-Qatari intent to pursue efforts for the achievement of a durable peace which entails the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab lands including the city of Jerusalem and the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425 and the exchange of land for peace.

The document called for a resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations on all tracks and urged the U.S., Russia, the European Union and Japan as well as the non-aligned nations, the United Nations and various world organisations to persuade Israel does not to renege on its commitments to the peace process.

They also reaffirmed determination to provide political and economic assistance to the Palestinian National Authority and people to help them regain their freedom and their lands and demanded an end to Israel's closure of the Palestinian lands.

The minutes included the two countries' strong condemnation of the recent bombing attack in Khobar, Saudi Arabia and denounced all forms of terrorism at the regional and international levels.

In the minutes, Jordan and Qatar expressed satisfaction with Iraq's consent to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 986 on the sale of oil to purchase food and medicine for the Iraqi people and demanded that Iraq carry out all U.N. resolutions in order to guarantee the end of the Iraqi people's suffering from the embargo.

The two countries also reaffirmed their support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Iraqi nation.

On the economic level, the



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani Sunday sign the minutes of the Higher Jordanian-Qatari Committee's deliberations held Saturday and Sunday in Amman (Petra photo)

two sides said they discussed means for promoting economic cooperation and increasing the volume of goods exchanged by the two countries by all available means.

They also agreed to upgrade a 1980 economic agreement to help boost trade, noting that in 1995 Jordan purchased JD5.5 million worth of Qatari goods and exported to Qatar JD8.5 million worth of Jordanian

products.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi, who led Jordan's side to the talks, told the Jordan Times that the two sides agreed on seconding Jordanian teachers to work in Qatar.

A Qatari educational delegation is expected to arrive in Amman soon in order to conclude contracts with Jordanian teachers through the Ministry of Education, said

Dr. Smadi.

The Qatari minister and his delegation met with Mr. Kabariti after the signing ceremony and later said discussions covered various issues of concern to the two sides.

Describing bilateral relations as very strong and progressing, Sheikh Hamad said he hoped that the minutes concluded Sunday would further bolster relations between the two countries.

Deputies to discuss subsidies with premier

AMMAN (Petra) — House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour Sunday announced that will hold an informal meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti today to discuss domestic, political and financial issues with special focus on the government's basic commodities subsidies programme.

Mr. Srour said the meeting is part of on-going consultations between the legislative and executive authorities.

The meeting comes close on the heels of a strong statement by the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party criticising the government's internal policies and threatening to seek a vote of no-confidence in the government.

IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour accused the government in a press conference Saturday of violating human rights and cracking down on Islamists under pressure from Israel and the United States.

Mr. Mansour also said the IAF disapproved of

the government's economic policies which he said failed to improve the deteriorating economic situation and warned the government against hiking bread prices.

The Prime Minister last week announced that the government has no intention of lifting the subsidy on bread, but said subsidies for bread should not benefit tourists and livestock breeders.

Any rise in prices will not affect Jordanian citizens, the Prime Minister affirmed.

The IAF's criticism of the government followed a report published in the local press quoting Minister of Supply Munir Sobar as saying that the price of bread would be raised from the current 85 fils a kilo to 250 fils as of July 15.

But Mr. Sobar has since denied the report noting that the subsidy will only benefit Jordanians and not tourists, foreign workers or hotels.

Opposition coalition warns of public outcry if bread prices go up

By Mervat Suwadeh
Special To The Jordan Times

AMMAN — A coalition of nine opposition parties warned Sunday of possible "public disorder" if the government hikes bread prices.

Citing the 1989 riots that erupted in Maan when the government attempted to raise the price of fuel, Melhem Tal, spokesman for the newly-formed coalition, said that although opposition parties were seeking to block any bread price increase through peaceful means, people's reaction could be "unpredictable" if prices are actually increased.

"Nobody can predict or control people's acts when they feel that they will starve," Mr. Tal told a press conference. "We want to remind the government of the 1989 riots which were prompted by poverty and starvation," he added.

Mr. Tal, who called on Jordanians to "resist" any government plan to raise bread prices, said opposition parties were seeking to collect signatures of thousands of citizens before they ask for a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to discuss the issue.

"We will use all possible means that fall within the law to stop this decision," Mr. Tal declared. "We will demonstrate, stage sit-ins, and call for public gatherings until our demands are answered," he said.

The government began studying lifting subsidies on bread two months ago as part of measures to contain a budget deficit.

If state subsidies are lifted the price of bread in the Kingdom is expected to double from the current 85 fils to 170 fils per kilogramme. However, Minister of Supply Munir Sobar,

told the Jordan Times in an interview last week that the decision would only affect tourists and foreigners working in the Kingdom.

He said 30 to 40 per cent of subsidised bread goes to social categories "who do not deserve" subsidies.

"We only think that it is not fair that the 1.2 million tourists and foreign workers also benefit from subsidised bread," he told the Jordan Times.

But government assurances that the decision would not affect the underprivileged was met with scepticism by parties and public interest groups.

At Sunday's press conference opposition parties accused the government of "trying to mislead people" by stating that the decision will not affect the poor in the Kingdom.

"They are trying to deceive us by presenting alternatives," Mr. Tal maintained. "Why can not the government simply say that it will not lift subsidies on bread, the fact is that they want to lift them," Mr. Tal argued.

Bread in Jordan is so much cheaper than in neighbouring countries, that, according to recent reports, it is even smuggled outside the Kingdom. Though the price of wheat on the international market has increased fourfold since 1994, flour and bread prices in Jordan have not and the government so far has continued to subsidise the 400,000 tonnes of flour Jordanians consume yearly.

According to the Ministry of Finance, government subsidies for the current fiscal year are expected to amount to JD190 million, five times higher than the JD 38 million allocated by the state budget for subsidies.

Bishops conclude meeting, call for durable peace

AMMAN (Petra) — Bishops representing the Evangelical Episcopal Churches in Asia and the Middle East Sunday ended a meeting in Amman by calling for continued interfaith dialogues to promote greater understanding among religions and urged the implementation of UN resolutions and the establishment of a durable peace in the Middle East.

A communique released at the end of the meeting stressed the status of Jerusalem as a holy city for the monotheistic religions and one that should not be closed to worshippers of any faith.

The communique called for freedom of all peoples, their right to self-determination, and access to a fair and equitable share of natural resources.

The statement included clauses demanding that advanced nations help poor countries' economies and assist them in reducing their national debt burdens.

The meeting was held to prepare for a 1998 Lambeth, England meeting which will be attended by all Anglican

bishops in the world representing 70 million people.

Speaking at the conclusion of the meeting Archbishop Samir Qafeti, who is responsible for the Evangelical Episcopal Churches in Jordan and the entire Middle East, said that the conference discussed and supported resolutions taken by the same bishops in 1988 stressing among other things the need for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict through the establishment of Jewish and Palestinian states with equal rights in Palestine.

According to Archbishop Qafeti's assistant, Reverend Luai Haddad, the conference underlined the bonds between Islam and Christianity, and the need for the spiritual values of the two faiths to promote society's life.

Referring to Jerusalem he said that it holds the key to a just and durable peace in the region, adding that it must not be closed to the followers of any of the three monotheistic religions as it is now under Israeli rule.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

"Danton" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Wehbeh at 9:00 p.m.

PLAYS

"Two plays entitled 'Taming' and 'A Funny Night With the Child Simbad' (Arabic) respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

WORLDNET DIALOGUE

Worldnet dialogue on the "Role of Women in Business" at the American Center auditorium, Abdoun at 4:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Arabic mosaic exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre, until July 11.

Ceramics and paintings exhibition by Kayez Al Shrouf at the Royal Cultural Centre, until July 11.

Black and white paintings exhibition of works conducted in half a century (1913-1966) entitled "Heureux Dimanche" at the French Cultural Centre, until July 20.

Ceramics exhibition at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sagar Street, (Tel. 699141/2), until July 25.

Abstract (plastic) art by Arab women artists at Babtain Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687981, until July 11).

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Russian troops dig in for threatened Chechen attacks

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Russian troops in Chechnya braced for attacks Sunday as a deadline set by separatist rebels for the removal of army checkpoints passed with the army defiantly refusing to dismantle its roadblocks.

Mutual recriminations threaten to reignite violence in the province and mar last week's election victory by President Boris Yeltsin, which was partly won at the price of a hasty truce last month with the independence-seeking guerrillas.

Some rebel leaders threatened last week to mount new attacks if the checkpoints were not removed by Sunday, in line with the ceasefire deal. But the Russian army, in its turn, accuses the separatists of bad faith and says the roadblocks must stay.

"So far they have not fulfilled a single point of their agreement," Lieutenant Colonel Roman Sokolovskiy, the army's chief spokesman in Chechnya, told Interfax News Agency, saying it would not remove its checkpoints.

"We've had no order to dismantle our command

post. We're always ready for an attack at any minute," Major Nikolai Popov told Reuters as his Omon commandos built sandbag reinforcements around their concrete bunker in the regional capital, Grozny.

Locals say troops at checkpoints harass them and extort bribes. Russia says they are vital to control the guerrillas.

Two servicemen died and two were wounded in one of 12 armed clashes in 24 hours to Sunday morning — a not unusual toll despite the ceasefire. Troops guarding official sites in central Grozny said they took part in an intense firefight overnight.

There were signs, however, that the detente which prevailed in the run-up to the presidential election is not yet dead.

The personal representative in Chechnya of Mr. Yeltsin's new Security Council secretary, Alexander Lebed, was planning to meet separatist leaders Sunday, Russian news agencies said.

Quoting an official on his staff, Interfax said Sergei Drogush might meet sepa-

ratist Chief-of-Staff Aslan Maskhadov.

Gen. Lebed has said he plans to visit Chechnya with new ideas.

He was appointed to run the powerful Security Council after coming third in the first round of the election and backing Mr. Yeltsin against Communist Gennady Zyuganov in the July 3 runoff.

A tough-talking reserve general, Gen. Lebed has already secured the sacking of Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and other Kremlin hawk who appeared to favour force over talks in Chechnya.

Interfax said Saturday that Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the hardline army commander in Chechnya, was also to be replaced soon.

The head of the Moscow-backed Chechen government, Dokki Zavgayev, told Interfax he was ready to meet separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev at any time as part of inter-Chechen peace talks. He has previously dismissed Mr. Yandarbiyev as an outlaw.

The rebels view Mr. Zavgayev, the Soviet-era Chechen leader, as a quisling

and have insisted on dealing directly with Moscow.

Mr. Zavgayev said Wednesday's election results in the region showed strong opposition to the rebels' claim for independence.

But observers cast grave doubts on the conduct of the poll.

The peace deal also calls for all troops to leave Chechnya by Sept. 1, after which free elections are to be held. There are disagreements, however, over when the rebels should disarm.

Major Popov, sporting oversized sunglasses and an automatic rifle, said he doubted he or many others would be home soon. So far only 3,000 of at least 48,000 troops have left Chechnya.

"My gut feeling is maybe the troops will leave gradually, but it will take years. Certainly not less than in Afghanistan," he said, referring to the nine-year Soviet intervention there.

Over 30,000 people, mostly civilians, have died in Chechnya since Mr. Yeltsin sent in the army in December 1994.



Passenger John Guerin shot this photo of the damaged left engine of Delta Flight 1288 while making an emergency exit from the airplane after the aborted takeoff of the MD-88 in Pensacola Saturday (Reuter photo)

Mother and son killed in U.S. plane engine accident

PENSACOLA, Florida (R) — A mother and her 13-year-old son died and five other passengers were injured Saturday when an engine on a Delta Air Lines MD-88 blew apart on the runway, sending shrapnel through the aircraft, officials said.

Killed were Anita and Nolan Saxton of Scottville, Michigan, who were seated in row 37 in the back of the aircraft, Delta spokesman Bill Berry told reporters at a briefing in Atlanta Saturday night. They were travelling with several other family members, he said.

They were among the 147 passengers and crew members aboard the twin-engine aircraft when the plane skidded to a stop about 450 metres down the runway, a spokesman for the Pensacola Regional Airport said.

The unusual incident aboard Delta Flight 1288 occurred as the eight-year-old airplane was taxiing for takeoff to Atlanta at about 2:20 p.m. cdt (1930 GMT).

Although witnesses reported hearing a loud sound, followed by flames in the engine, Delta officials declined to call it an explosion and described it as an engine "disintegration."

"This is a first occurrence for us," Mr. Berry said. "There was a major failure of the engine that resulted in parts of the engine leaving the cowl, which normally will stop any parts, and penetrating the fuselage."

Witnesses on the full airplane, which was loaded with Fourth of July Independence Day holiday passengers, reported a loud banging noise from the left engine, brief flames that erupted from the engine, smoke in the cabin and shrapnel flying throughout the rear of the aircraft.

The plane used emergency chutes to evacuate about three dozen frightened passengers, Mr. Berry said. After the small engine fire was quickly contained, the crew ushered the remaining passengers out of the airplane using its stairs.

"There was just a cloud of smoke that came down and you saw people go down and saw people panic," passenger John Madden told



Rescue workers remove the body of a passenger on Delta Flight 1288 from the rear of the airplane Saturday in Pensacola. Two people were killed and at least five were injured when the left engine "disintegrated" on takeoff and shrapnel penetrated the aircraft's fuselage. The plane carried 142 passengers and a crew of five (Reuter photo)

WEAR-TV in Pensacola. "It was pretty frantic ... People were screaming just trying to get out of the airplane."

"As the pilot hit the gas to accelerate, the engine blew ... and shrapnel went flying through the aircraft," he added.

Three people were taken to Baptist Hospital for treatment and two others were rushed to Sacred Heart Hospital with minor injuries, hospital spokeswoman confirmed. Only one of the injured was listed in serious condition, a man with a broken leg, hospital officials said.

A pregnant woman and her small child were also taken to a hospital as a precaution but did not require treatment, a spokesman for the airport said.

A total of 142 passengers plus five crew members were on the flight at the time of the incident in Florida's panhandle, officials said.

The damaged engine had been overhauled late last year and was installed on the MD-88 in January. The engine had logged 1,528 hours of service since then, Mr. Berry said.

The same type of Pratt Whitney engine, known as the JT8D-219 series, is used by many Boeing 727s and 737s, and Mr. Berry described it as "a workhorse engine that has been around for many, many years."

Federal Aviation Administration officials said they were investigating. A team from the National Transportation Safety Board was to arrive in Pensacola later Saturday evening.

Delta said it was reviewing maintenance records of the airplane and its Pratt Whitney engines, which Mr. Berry described as having a good safety record.

"We've had no reason to believe that there is a problem. We've not had any experience like this," he said.

Delta has about 120 MD-88s in its fleet.



Richard O'Grady is comforted by family members after the aborted takeoff of Delta Flight 1288 in Pensacola Saturday. Mr. O'Grady was one of the 142 passengers on the flight when the left engine of the MD-88 exploded (Reuter photo)

Canada AIDS forum opens amid scientific optimism

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — AIDS researchers start the largest-ever conference on the disease Sunday with a new sense of optimism over scientific breakthroughs even as the killer virus continues to rage, infecting five people every minute.

The week-long 11th International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver, Canada, will be the biggest in an annual series of AIDS gatherings, drawing 15,000 researchers, people with AIDS, activists, policymakers and journalists.

"We have our first glimmers of hope in a long time," said conference co-chair Dr. Martin Schechter. "But we don't want people to think we have the disease licked. We are far from it. Our goal is complete worldwide prevention and complete worldwide cure."

After a decade of disappointment, researchers have recently reported a flurry of major advances against AIDS and their findings are expected to be the highlight of the Vancouver conference. Some scientists are even daring to speculate that these gains may one day lead to a cure.

But they emphasise that many hurdles remain, and new data released on the eve of the conference showed the killer pandemic continues to spread relentlessly.

The United Nations estimated 21.8 million people around the world are living with HIV or AIDS. About 8,500 more people are infected daily — five every minute — with the Human

Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

Since the global pandemic took hold in the early 1980s, 5.8 million people have died of the disease, which destroys the immune system.

In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control issued new statistics Saturday that suggested the rate of AIDS infection appears to be stabilising. But it said these statistics show an unacceptably high level, with about one in 300 Americans carrying the virus.

"On a global scale, the epidemic is still out of control despite its tenuous 'stabilisation' in the United States and in certain developed countries. Furthermore, major gaps in our knowledge still exist," said AIDS researcher Anthony Fauci of U.S. National Institutes of Health.

Even so, Mr. Fauci and other researchers believe there is good reason for optimism. Among developments that have helped dispel despair are remarkable results from a new type of drug introduced this year.

These new drugs, called protease inhibitors, block an enzyme crucial to the multiplication of the virus. Tests so far have shown that when taken in multi-drug "cocktails" including the medicine AZT, protease inhibitors have reduced the amount of HIV in the blood for long periods.

"These combinations really are powerful... There is a lot of reason for optimism," said researcher David Ho of the Aaron Diamond Centre in New York.

However, AIDS activists warn against building false hopes, especially in view of past disappointments over treatments that showed early promise.

"We have to be careful to position ourselves between hope and denial," said Canadian AIDS activist Aron Schilder.

As the conference gets under way Sunday, people with AIDS and activists plan a march and a minute of silence to commemorate those who have died from the disease.

Activists, a potent force in the politics of public health, have threatened demonstrations throughout the conference to draw attention to their demands for intensified research, government policy changes and allegations of profiteering by drug companies.

In addition to research on new drugs, the conference will feature recent advances in tests to determine the amount of virus present in the body, known as viral load. This is seen by many scientists to be the best indicator of how quickly a person will progress to full-blown AIDS.

In addition, researchers will highlight recent laboratory attempts to make cells resistant to HIV through gene therapy the so-far disappointing search for an AIDS vaccine studies of people with HIV who remain AIDS-free for many years and the testing of foams that kill the virus on contact, which may become a key prevention tool in developing countries.

Further down the street, Tai Xiangliang and his colleagues were washing China bowls in wooden basins outside another large store.

"We have been cleaning up for two days. We are almost done now," said Tai.

His employer said he lost 5,000 yuan (\$580) worth of stock in the flood, but seemed happy to have limited the damage.

"This year I lost less because we were able to move most of the stock to a safe place. Last year I lost 10,000 yuan," he said.

Residents said the Fenshui River, which has its source in Tianmu Mountain, rose rapidly on June 30 after a single day of heavy rain.

At midnight, Qian Hailiang, his wife, son, daughter-in-law and daughter had to climb out of the roof of their two-storey brick and concrete house perched on the river embankment.

The 51-year-old sailor and his son swam to safety while the women were evacuated by boat.

After flood, water shortages hit Chinese town

HENGCHUN, China (AFP) — Days after being badly hit by floods, the residents of Hengchun badly need a lot of water now for a major clean-up operation.

The water supply in Hengchun, in the eastern province of Zhejiang, was restored Friday but amounts to little more than a trickle in many homes, while electricity was reconnected Saturday.

"We have no water to wash away the mud," said one resident, as he waded in rubber boots through one of the main streets in Hengchun, 110 kilometres southwest of the provincial capital Hangzhou.

Furniture and belongings were heaped up outside homes waiting to be washed.

"This is all the water that we get," said Xu Yina, a partner in a fashion department store, pointing to a pile of water carried by his wife, Shou Yueying.

Ms. Shou poured water sparingly from a red plastic scoop for her husband to wash away mud from a bamboo partition. In no time, the bucket was emptied and again put under the trickle of water coming from the tap.

Mr. Xu and his wife spent five days clearing mud from the barn-like store after waters from the Fenshui River retreated Wednesday.

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Stressed Indian officials get time off to meditate

BOMBAY (R) — Senior bureaucrats in India's most industrialised state have been given time off for meditation to deal with job-related stress, the Times of India newspaper reported Sunday. The newspaper said a recent ruling by the Western state of Maharashtra would allow officials over the age of 45 to take an expenses-paid fortnight off every three years to study the "Vipassana" technique of meditation. More than 2,500 years old, the technique was originally practised by Gautama Buddha, the founder of the Buddhist religion. Government officials said pressure from superiors to accomplish difficult goals with tough deadlines created tensions. "Now the government has recognised the need to create a work atmosphere totally free of tension," state Social Secretary Ratnakar Gaikwad said. Mr. Gaikwad said he had urged the government to introduce measures to help officials deal with job-related stress shortly after two top-level bureaucrats died suddenly at work two years ago.

English, Russian most useful European languages

BRUSSELS (R) — English has outstripped all other languages in being understood by European Union (EU) citizens, but Russian is the most popular language across the continent, a survey released Thursday shows. The poll, by the EU's statistics office Eurostat, shows one in three of the 15-nation bloc's citizens claim to speak English well enough to be understood. French can be understood by 15 per cent of EU citizens and German by nine per cent. But if the EU's 286 million citizens were added to Eastern Europe's 269 million, Russian would overtake all other languages as the most widely understood with 35 per cent. English was next with 28 per cent and German and French with 20 and 17 per cent respectively. The survey said citizens of the Benelux countries — Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg — were the most polylingual.

U.K. archbishop attacks decline in morals

LONDON (R) — The Archbishop of Canterbury Friday spoke out against a decline in morals, saying religion had been reduced to a hobby in Britain and society would perish unless the difference between right and wrong was taught. Dr George Carey, head of the Anglican Church and its 70 million members worldwide, said morality seemed to have become a case of personal choice. "It's a do-it-yourself approach. We've lost a sense of right and wrong," he told BBC Radio. "What I want to do is to start a debate which looks at the whole of morality and how we can form children to grow up as moral and responsible agents in society."

Arch. Carey later delivered a keynote speech in the House of Lords, the upper chamber of Britain's parliament, on society's moral and spiritual well-being in which he complained that God was "being banished to the realm of the private hobby."

Church attendances in Britain have fallen steadily since the turn of the century and Arch. Carey said many people now found it embarrassing to talk about religion or morality in public. A poll published by the Daily Telegraph newspaper Friday suggested only one in five people believed Britain had a common set of moral standards and nearly 75 per cent thought too much moral choice was left to individuals.

LD gathers thumb of B

YANGON (AFP) — Burma's military grip on power since a 1988 election from detention a new opposition leader says

movement is slowly gaining

he was unexpectedly freed in 1989 after a year of house arrest on July 1989

year later, during which her National League for Democracy (NLD) and the

hand-off. Ms. Suu Kyi says the continued strict control on the

politics.

I think that what has happened in the last year is that my words, that nothing would have been proved true," a

ing Suu Kyi said in a telephone interview with AFP Friday.

There are those who claim that it has been some progress towards democracy. But in fact there has been

the winning laureate said.

release from house arrest, which remains under the scrutiny of military intelligence, situated a

away across the road from her

home.

I am just busier than I was before," said Ms. Suu Kyi, who is married

to a businessman Michael Aris, said she had



Madrid man

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Madrid man killed in Spanish bull running

FUENTESAUCA, Spain (R) — A Madrid man was killed Saturday after being gored by a bull running in a festival in western Spain, hospital officials said. There were two other people seriously wounded and some 30 more with various bruises and cuts after festival celebrations in the town of Fuentesauca, where there is a bull run similar to the more famous ones that started Sunday in Pamplona. Angel Gavilanes, 50, died at hospital from internal bleeding. He had been gored in the backside and the bull's razor-sharp horn had pierced his intestines, doctors said. Last year in Pamplona, a 22-year-old American was killed after being gored by a bull during the San Fermin Festival, bringing the total number of deaths there to 13 this century. Half-tonne bulls bred to fight are traditionally herded from pens outside the town centres to the bullrings and spectators make a risky run along with them in many Spanish festivals. The photograph shows Bull runners guide the herd of Miura fighting bulls through central Pamplona Sunday during the first run of the San Fermin Festival (Reuter photo)

Macedonian walkout mars Balkan meeting in Sofia

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria played host Saturday to a landmark meeting of Balkan foreign countries that aims to map a peaceful future path for a region best known for historic feuds and bloody conflicts. But Macedonia's last-minute withdrawal from the conference due to a bitter, long-running row with Greece over its name brought a timely reminder of the unresolved issues that still bedevil the Balkan peninsula. "This meeting is an expression of our political will...to strengthen regional stability, security and cooperation on the basis of the principles of good neighbourliness," Bulgarian Prime Minister Zhan Videnov told the conference. He said he hoped the gathering would also give an "additional impulse" to the peace process in former Yugoslavia and thereby contribute to the region's wider stability. Ministers from Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and rump Yugoslavia attended the meeting in the huge Communist-era National Congress Centre. The ex-Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia, Hungary and Italy sent observers, while officials from the contact group nations for ex-Yugoslavia — Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — were also present. Macedonia's delegation pulled out after efforts to find a compromise formula over its name broke down. Greece objects to the name Macedonia, which it says implies territorial claims on its own northern province of that name. The Macedonian delegation refused to attend under its U.N. name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos, noting that Skopje had accepted the FYROM appellation at other international forums, said he regretted the Macedonian decision. Albania's Deputy Foreign Minister Arian Starova drew attention to another thorny Balkan issue when he urged delegates not to neglect Kosovo, the troubled Serbian province with a mainly Albanian population. He said Kosovo could turn into a worse nightmare than Bosnia if left to fester. The international community's high representative

for Bosnia, Carl Bildt, said the meeting was a useful step towards integrating Balkan economies. "Peace comes through integration and we have seen a regrettable absence of both in southeastern Europe," he said. Other speakers focused on a need to increase regional trade and investment and to develop projects in the fields of transport, energy and telecommunications. Turkey's Deputy Foreign Minister Onur Oymen called for a regional campaign against organised crime, noting that the Balkans was a key route for drugs passing from the Middle East to Western Europe. Sofia-based diplomats said the conference, chaired by Bulgarian Foreign Minister Georgi Pirinski, was unlikely to produce concrete initiatives, given the degree of continued mistrust and rivalry between some participants. "But the fact it is going ahead at all, despite setbacks like the Macedonian pull-out, has a symbolic importance and perhaps they can build up the impetus to turn the meetings into a regular event," one diplomat told Reuters.

NLD gathers steam under the thumb of Burmese military

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burma's military has kept its firm grip on power since Aung San Suu Kyi's release from detention a year ago, but the opposition leader says her democracy movement is slowly gathering steam. After she was unexpectedly freed from almost six years of house arrest on July 10 last year, Aung San Suu Kyi announced to the world that apart from her release, "nothing else has changed." A year later, during which her National League for Democracy (NLD) and the military have been engaged in an almost constant stand-off, Ms. Suu Kyi says her assessment has been borne out by the junta's continued strict control on the country's politics. "I think that what has happened in the past year is that my words, that nothing had changed, have been proved true," a tired-sounding Suu Kyi said in a telephone interview with AFP Friday. "There are those who claim that there have been some improvements, that there has been some progress towards democratisation. But in fact there has been no progress of that kind," the Nobel Peace Prize winning laureate said. She said release from house arrest had had a minimal impact on her day-to-day life, which remains under the scrutiny of military intelligence, situated a stone's throw away across the road from her suburban home. "I am just busier than I was before," she said. Ms. Suu Kyi, who is married to Englishman Michael Aris, said she had not

seen her family since they visited for Christmas last December. The 51-year-old opposition leader is allowed discreet trips out of her compound in a car with tinted-black windows — tailed by a police car — but has on a number of occasions been barred from making overt public appearances. Her days are packed with a gruelling stream of meetings with NLD officials and activists — a sign of the flurry of activity her party has been experiencing in the past year. Ms. Suu Kyi said the past 12 months had seen a resurgence of the NLD, which took the lion's share of seats in 1990's abortive elections, but was left in disarray and riven by infighting in the military crackdown which followed the polls. "From our side, the National League for Democracy has become stronger and more active than it has been for years," she said. The freeing from prison of leading party lights such as Tin Oo and Kyi Maung, both NLD vice-chairmen today, in the months ahead of her release had brought a strong leadership to the party, she said. However, she added that while the party was experiencing something of a renaissance, members were under no illusions that they were home free. "Everyone in the NLD is prepared for arrest," she said when asked if she expected to be taken into custody by the authorities. "I have repeatedly said that anyone in Burma can be arrested at any time."

Philippine Christian protesters declare 'state of war'

DIPOLOG, Philippines (AFP) — An estimated 10,000 Christians, displaying small inverted Philippine flags to signify a state of war, rallied at the town plaza here Sunday to express opposition to a proposed peace deal with Muslim rebels. The rally is the latest in a wave of protests that analysts said could derail the fragile interim peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the main Muslim rebel group, reached during peace talks last month. In Manila, President Fidel Ramos dispatched Interior Secretary Robert Barbers to Dipolog, capital of the southern province of Zamboanga del Norte, to urge local leaders and residents to put off the protest move of displaying inverted blue-and-red flags. He ordered Mr. Barbers to file sedition charges against those who violate the law by displaying the flag with the red field over the blue one — a move allowed only when the country is in a state of war with another nation. Displaying it in that position during peacetime constitutes sedition.

Sri Lankan troops take 10 Tamils after Tiger suicide bombing

COLOMBO (AFP) — At least 10 Tamils in northern Sri Lanka have been arrested in connection with the killings of 36 people last week by a suicide bomber, defence sources said Sunday. Troops have been rounding up those suspected of being linked to the woman who staged the devastating attack aimed at Housing Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva Thursday, the sources said. Mr. De Silva survived the attack. The sources said the bomber, who strapped explosives around her stomach to give the impression that she was pregnant, could be identified because her head remained fairly intact and had been brought here for forensic tests. Thursday's attack in Jaffna, the former citadel of the rebel liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was the first attack against a politician since troops captured the region after a series of operations begun in October. "There is a lot of cooperation from the public and we

are getting more and more information about the suicide bomber," a defence official here said. Among those killed and wounded in the blast were a large number of Tamil civilians. Two forensic experts from the government analysts' department flew to Jaffna, 400 kilometres north of here, and flew back to Colombo over the weekend, officials said. The Defence Ministry said in a statement that the LTTE had chosen a public gathering to attack the housing minister knowing that heavy civilian casualties could result. Among those killed in the blast was the army's top commander for Jaffna, Brigadier Ananda Hamangoda, whose remains were to be cremated with full military honours at a public park in the north-western town of Kuruwagala Sunday. "The selection of the target site was done by (Tiger supremo Velupillai) Prabhakaran for maximum effect and publicity," the ministry said in a statement.

For its part, the LTTE did not directly claim responsibility for the bombing but the group's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, said a woman suicide bomber riding a motorcycle carried out the attack. Mr. Prabhakaran has hailed his band of suicide bombers as the group's deadliest weapon against government forces, Tamil sources said Saturday after monitoring the rebel radio. In a statement to mark the ninth anniversary of the first Tiger suicide bombing, he said the elite bombers were their protective armour. Suicide bombers known as Black Tigers have carried out more than a dozen attacks and have been blamed for the killings of nearly 200 people, including Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi. "Black Tigers are the self-protective armour of our race. They are the men of flame who can destroy the enemy's armed strength by their brain strength," Mr. Prabhakaran said over the

clandestine Voice of Tigers radio Friday. The Tigers said a large number of Tamil civilians carried portraits of suicide cadres who had carried out attacks in the past nine years and staged religious ceremonies to invoke blessings on them. Black Tigers dine with Tiger supremo Prabhakaran and pose for photographs the night before carrying out their final kamikaze-style missions. The commitment of Tiger fighters to their violent campaign for an independent homeland in the northeast has earned them the grudging admiration of even their bitter foes, the Sri Lankan security forces. The first LTTE suicide bombing was against an army camp at Nelliyadi in the Jaffna peninsula on July 5, 1987. A Black Tiger known as Captain Miller drove an explosives-laden truck into the camp, killing at least 39 soldiers. Since then, the list of LTTE suicide attacks has grown steadily, adding more high-profile victims.

Mandela confirms 1999 step down date, backs Mbeki

LONDON (AFP) — South African President Nelson Mandela confirmed Sunday he would step down at the end of his first term in office in 1999, and backed his deputy Thabo Mbeki to succeed him. "Yes I do intend to step down," Mr. Mandela, who starts a four-day state visit to Britain Tuesday, told the BBC. "A man of 81 cannot really lead a robust country such as ours. Our young democracy would require a comparatively young leadership, and we have excellent material in the ANC," he said. Mr. Mandela said it was not for him to designate a successor, but said he would support the ruling African National Congress if it chose Mr. Mbeki to replace him. "This is something that will be decided by the organisation but he (Mbeki) is a very talented and influential person. "He is very popular and if the organisation elected him I would feel that they have made the correct decision," he said. The 77-year-old president added: "I have not the slightest doubt that the young people who are leading this organisation will probably stand head and shoulders above the present president when they will be given the opportunity to lead." When he leaves the presidency just before the new millennium, Mr. Mandela said he hoped to devote himself to his family: "My hope is that I will have the time to sit down and be able to advise my grandchildren as they grow up and also I

would like to do a little bit of farming. "I will not be able to have any income and I must be able to support myself. I don't want to sit down along the street and start begging," he quipped. Asked if he had considered writing his memoirs of his time as head of state, Mr. Mandela said: "It is always a possibility. I have kept some notes of the presidential years and it is certainly a possibility, but to write a book is a long process."

gone so well that unity is now possible." National Arts, Culture and Sciences Minister Ben Ngubane, who is a senior IFP official, also supports unity discussions, according to the Sunday Times report. In addition to the officials, the newspaper quoted several IFP and ANC hawks and warlords "in the forefront of the bloody war" as supporting the merger. These include the IFP's Mntwa and David Ntombela, who was branded one of the world's 30 most dangerous warlords by a British newspaper in 1993. "It is our people who are dying, and there is no reason why we cannot resolve this conflict and work together with the ANC again," Mr. Ntombela told the newspaper. Mr. Ntombela and ANC warlord Sifiso Nkabinde are members of a committee headed by Mr. Zuma and Mr. Mntwa which is meeting with leaders and supporters in the province to tell them the war between the parties is over. IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, however, was "cautious" in his statement to the Sunday Times, saying that reconciliation would be more likely if constitutional differences between the ANC and IFP were solved. Nearly 20,000 people have died — including 300 since February — in 11 years of fighting between ANC and IFP supporters in Kwazulu-Natal. Violence subsided somewhat about two weeks prior to the province's June 26 local government elections, but peace monitors said long-standing tensions still

remain. Last week, IFP Secretary General Ziba Jiyane said the IFP stood a "fifty-fifty" chance of leaving Nelson Mandela's national coalition government. Mr. Jiyane said a walkout would not be related to the June departure from government of Frederick Willem De Klerk's conservative National Party, which would become the only major opposition party if the ANC and IFP were to merge. Mr. Zuma told the Sunday Times that issues that caused the IFP's original split from the ANC in 1979 — disagreement over the ANC's pro-sanction stance as well as their use of an "armed struggle" against the apartheid government — no longer existed. Both parties are now working together to bring peace to the province, Mr. Zuma said. Sbu Ndebele, an ANC official and Kwazulu-Natal provincial cabinet minister said: "It is only a matter of time now. It is a historical fact that the IFP and the ANC are one organisation. Once we have resolved our differences we will be together again." According to the Sunday Times, several obstacles stand in the way of a unity deal between the ANC and IFP. IFP stalwarts such as member of parliament Walter Felgate and IFP advisor Mario Ambrosini still favour "institutional conflict" with the ANC, the newspaper said.

The French tend to believe that Paris is the centre of the world. For once it's true

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Plan to privatise — at last?

HAD THE idea to privatise state-owned organisations been thought up only recently, we would have been able to better understand an announcement made by the Minister of Information concerning the issue Saturday. The Cabinet has decided to put in place an institutionalised mechanism for dealing with the question of privatisation, the minister said in the statement which he issued after a regular Cabinet meeting on Saturday evening. This basically means that throughout the many years that have elapsed since the executive authority announced that it was planning to end its direct intervention in the economy, our officials really had no real intention, or a plan, to do so. All those years were wasted, it seems, just talking about the need and will to privatise without lifting a finger to see what the step means in actual and practical terms. The necessity for adopting a clear and well-defined policy on the privatisation of public sector enterprises and concern should have been realised long ago and not just in the Cabinet meeting on Saturday. What is at stake here is a considerable amount of taxpayers' money that should have always been handled with utmost care and definitely within the framework of well-researched decisions that aim first and foremost to protect the interests of the state and its people.

But now that an important first step has been taken, hopefully, what needs to be done is to ensure that the policy and mechanism to be adopted will not be changed at a whim. Several governments have come and gone since the idea of privatising actually came up. The problem, however, has invariably been that the way governments looked at and moved on the privatisation process ended with the end of term of the government in office. Simply put, institutionalisation of decision-making has always been lacking and the country consequently paid a price for it. This government's acknowledgement of the importance of planning and articulating mechanisms, at least in dealing with the privatisation issue, should therefore be commended, but only if they are also expanded to cover all aspects of the decision-making process in our country. This is the only way to guarantee continuity of policies and to put Jordan on the right track towards the 21st century.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily discussed Palestinian-Jordanian relations in light of the Aqaba meeting between King Hussein and President Arafat, noting that the meeting was part of the two leaders' continued consultations regarding the new developments in the region in the wake of the Likud's rise to power in Israel. Both leaders realise that the peace process holds the key to security and stability, which are prerequisites for any economic progress in the region, and are keen to display their total support for the continuation of this process and the attainment of a comprehensive peace, said the daily. Coming on the heels of an Arab summit held in Cairo, the Aqaba meeting is considered a follow up to the two leaders' efforts to bring about reconciliation among Arab leaders and reestablish solidarity among their governments and peoples, it added.

BY APPOINTING Ariel Sharon in a ministerial post, Benjamin Netanyahu will be placing the future of his government in the hands of extremists who stop at nothing for the sake of achieving their goals, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i, Sunday. Not that Sharon is less aggressive and ill-natured than the other members of the Israeli cabinet, which includes so many extremists, but the man is so notorious for his atrocities against the Arabs, especially for his invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and his responsibility for the massacring of Palestinian refugees in two of their camps, said the writer. Sharon, who is considered a hero in the eyes of the Jewish settlers who lobbied for including him in the government, is well known for his hostile stands against the Arabs and is notorious for leading the Zionists into building Jewish homes on Arab-owned lands, noted the writer.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Not by bread alone!

A FEW DAYS ago, the minister of supply stated that the government has recently concluded a study on bread consumption in Jordan and found that there were significant distortions in the consumption of this necessary commodity. The minister then declared, in somewhat ambiguous terms, that the government, in order to remove the distortions, is looking into several methods of doing away with the bread subsidy, such as replacing the subsidy with income transfers to the needy. Of course, the public immediately responded with outrage and the Cabinet had to retract its earlier statements on the subject. The issue is yet to be demystified and clear, unambiguous policy is badly needed in this regard. However, on the outset, income transfers may prove to be not a bad idea after all.

Although accurate figures have not yet been released to the public, the cost of the bread subsidy to the treasury is around JD 100 million, which is a handsome amount relative to our GDP and the government's budget (JD 3,945 and JD 1,613 million, respectively). The government's study claims that approximately JD 38 out of the JD 100 million go into subsidising the wheat consumed by non-poor and well-to-do Jordanians, tourists, foreign labourers and livestock. In other words, the wheat subsidy, which is financed through borrowing, is going to those who do not need it and to non-Jordanians. The minister of supply, in order to correct these distortions, suggested that the bread subsidy will be lifted and in its place poor families will be given cash transfers of around JD 15 per person per year.

In general, subsidies decrease the effective price for the consumer and subsidised commodities become inexpensive when compared to other, non-subsidised commodities. Thus, people who originally consumed only small amounts of bread relative to rice, for example, will find themselves, regardless of their pre-subsidy preferences, more inclined to purchase greater quantities of bread and smaller quantities of rice. The subsidy, therefore, is said to distort and bias the consumption pattern of the recipient. That is exactly what happened in Jordan as people started to purchase more bread than they actually needed and the government started to pay more and more in wheat subsidies. Matters became worse as the price of wheat increased worldwide due to the dominance of the World Trade Organisation and the removal of wheat subsidies in many countries.

On the other hand, and from a purely economic perspective, a direct income transfer allows the person to spend the money on whatever item is revealed most necessary in the choice bundle without distorting the prices of the commodities or biasing consumption in favour of one commodity over another. Furthermore, with a cash transfer the government ensures that the poor, not the wealthy or non-needy, do receive the total welfare transfer with very little or minor distortions.

Additionally, replacing the bread subsidy with a cash transfer keeps the government out of the business of shaping people's consumption behaviour and influencing their consumption choices, a task which no government should ever assume. That is why so many prominent economists, including many Nobel laureates, have stressed that income transfers are better than commodity subsidies.

The method of providing welfare through income transfers, instead of subsidies, has its own possible shortcomings: the income transfers may end up in the hands of relatives and friends of corrupt public officials; the transfers may be underestimated and not reflect subsidy equivalence, which hurts the poor; and the income transfer may not be indexed to the inflation rate and, thus, it may depreciate in value in the medium to long-term. Therefore, the government should ensure that new distributional abuses do not creep into the system; must estimate the transfers correctly and adjust these transfers periodically, in accordance with the inflation rate.

The Ministry of Supply, if it wishes to replace the bread subsidy with income transfers, must first make the study, which started all this fuss, available to the public and the media. Furthermore, the whole process must be made transparent from the very beginning in order to enhance trust between the government and the people.

Clear, detailed announcements to the public by responsible government officials; discussion panels; seminars and well-devised and executed public awareness campaigns will, indeed, ensure the smoothness of policy implementation. Otherwise, dangerous speculation arising out of information incongruity, will lead to unwelcome results that may sabotage the whole Jordanian reform programme. In addition, this may be a great chance for the present government to demonstrate that it has truly created a partnership with the citizen.

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Loyalty is key to Chernomyrdin's survival

Moscow (R) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who looked set on Thursday to form Russia's next government, has revealed yet again a remarkable capacity for survival beneath his dour exterior.

Boris Yeltsin's longest-serving minister, the thick-set former apparatchik and gas industry supremo has not only survived a string of cabinet and Kremlin shakeups but won the confidence of the West as a steady pilot for Russia's economy.

Workmanlike rather than flamboyant, and lacking the charisma of his boss, he remains a heartbeat away from supreme power in Russia as next in line should Mr. Yeltsin die.

Under the constitution the prime minister would take over for three months pending a new presidential

election. Mr. Chernomyrdin sent shivers through world markets with talk of regulating the economy when he replaced radical reformer Yegor Gaidar in 1992, in a compromise between Mr. Yeltsin and the former, opposition-dominated Russian parliament.

But he quickly adjusted his sights and clung on to both reformers and reforms, in accordance with his master's wishes.

Then last year, as the pain of International Monetary Fund-backed reform grew sharper, he was forced to let the reformist ministers go, one by one.

Now 58, he has kept Mr. Yeltsin's trust, and his nomination was almost automatic when preliminary results showed on Thursday that the president had been reelected. Russia's parliament has

to approve a new prime minister. But the Communists and nationalists who dominate the lower chamber, the state duma, appeared ready to cooperate with Mr. Chernomyrdin.

Early this year, when Mr. Yeltsin was at a physical and political low, Mr. Chernomyrdin's name was raised as a potential presidential candidate to stand against the Communists.

But the bluff premier declined point-blank to oppose Mr. Yeltsin and campaigned loyally at his side.

Asked on Thursday if he would run for president in future, Mr. Chernomyrdin was characteristically non-committal.

"In the future? In the future we will work, we'll see, we won't run ahead now," Viktor Stepanovich

Chernomyrdin was born in Orenburg, south of the Ural Mountains, on April 9, 1938.

The son of a tractor-driver, he became a metalworker after school. He joined the Soviet Communist Party in 1961 and worked his way up to join the central committee's industry department. He left the party in 1991.

He worked in Russia's main oil-producing region, tyumen, in western Siberia, from 1983 to 1985 and became gas industry minister in 1985 under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Chernomyrdin headed the state-owned gas company Gazprom from 1989 to 1992, when he became deputy prime minister in charge of Russia's energy sector and later prime minister.

He is married with two sons.

LETTERS

For good measure

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to clarify some issues tackled in the article "International quality certification puts pressure on Jordanian pharmaceutical industry" (Jordan Times, July 1, 1996).

The Jordanian pharmaceutical industry complies with international standards of Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP). Hikma Pharmaceuticals is the first pharmaceutical company in the Arab World to obtain the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. The FDA is the strictest international body regarding GMP regulations.

GMP, as per FDA regulations, addresses several areas, including organisation and personnel, buildings and facilities equipment, control of components and drug product containers and closures, production and process control, packaging and labelling control, holding and distribution.

In each area, certain set standard operating procedures (SOPs) are followed to assure strict abidance by CGM Practices (CGMP).

In contrast with ISO9000 certification, which addresses areas regarding the total quality management of the company which may or may not lead to a quality product, the FDA regulations deal with the product, assuring the production of a safe and effective product.

So ISO9000 has nothing to do with the quality of the product, it certifies the manufacturer not the products.

Thus, a company in Jordan with FDA approval means that the pharmaceutical industry is well-advanced in the field of CGMP, rising to international standards and thus able to compete with international companies, even in the U.S. (the world's largest market).

The Jordanian pharmaceutical industry, having passed the rigid inspection of the FDA, could market its products anywhere in the world.

Pharmacist Hiba Zarou,
Registration Manager,
Hikma Pharmaceuticals,
Amman.

For lack of a paper

To the Editor:

WITH REFERENCE to your article "International quality certification puts pressure on Jordanian pharmaceutical industry" (Jordan Times, July 1, 1996), I would like to add the following comments:

The seminar that tackled this issue had as its main objective to stress the importance of the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certificate for the Jordanian pharmaceutical industries. It came as a result of a study conducted by MMIS Management Consultants and sponsored by the Industrial Development Bank. In the study, it was emphasised that the Jordanian pharmaceutical industries will be exposed to serious disadvantages for lack of GMP certification, as only one Jordanian pharmaceutical company managed to certify only one of its products. Knowing this fact, and knowing that all developed

Human Rights File

Why Jordanians are so politicised

By Waleed M. Sadi

PERHAPS JORDANIANS are among the most politicised people anywhere in the world. We seem to think, talk, eat and sleep politics. Even our humour is politically oriented. So is our social life, including the times when we offer condolences or express congratulations on weddings or school or university graduation days. Ninety nine per cent of our conversations appear to zoom in on a domestic or foreign policy issue as if there were nothing else in life to attract our interest or concern. Why then are we politicised to the extent that every other human endeavour or pursuit always takes a backseat in our lives?

Part of the answer lies in our geography, which is generally dry and conducive to reflection and meditation. Had we had rivers, forests and other nature's wonders, the interest of some of us, at least, could have been diverted to nature and its beauty. There could have been more outings and we would have spent less time socialising.

As is, there is too much socialising in the country and this lends support to the need to develop interesting discussions. Of course, when people converse and socialise too much, the direction of the social discourse focuses on the most pressing issues and for us, in Jordan, it always turns out to be politics.

Politics are most important for us because we are constantly reminded of it and bombarded with it. Our mass media, whether visual or audio, appears to be interested in politics only. We are constantly dish out dramatic flows of political information, our subconscious is targeted, directed by political considerations and saturated with it.

Perhaps these are the simpler explanations for our infatuation with politics. The more substantive answers can be found in the political and economic history of our region and the four or five centuries of subjugation and retardation that preceded our independence and whose cumulative effect place us still in the developing countries club in matters that count most.

The glories and agonies of the past haunt us and have become part of our

national and individual psyche. There is effectively no way that we can remain away from political considerations that played havoc with our lives, as people and nation, in the past.

Moreover, in Jordan, as elsewhere in the Middle East, the government is omnipotent, all encompassing and big. This is a part of the world where the least government is neither the best nor the norm. When state bureaucracy and apparatus determine so much of our lives, it stands to reason that people would have to reckon and deal with it in an attempt to digest its ordinances and policies and keep abreast of them. Survival in Jordan, therefore, calls on the people to stay political; stability and well-being of citizens are all affected and determined by politics. So we either master the game or lose out. Few make it, but most do not because our reading of the politics of our country was never correct or sufficient.

On the other hand, conditions in our part of the world are not normal either. Until there is more normalcy in our lives, we are bound to remain hyper-political people. There is so much at stake for all of us. As native Jordanians, we are afraid that we will be swallowed up by the Palestinian Jordanians, by their sheer number. With democracy consolidating all around us, there is a genuine anxiety that democracy would one day be translated into a Palestinian Jordanian tutelage. There is already concern about the economy of the country being in the hands of new Jordanians. This concern is compounded by the realisation that Israel is bent on transferring more Palestinians to Jordan in order to consolidate its grip on greater Israel. New Jordanians are equally afraid of becoming marginalised in centres of power and turning effectively into second class citizens.

To be sure, every country and society suffer from ethnic, religious, political and economic phobias, but Jordan, and other countries in the region, seem to have a higher dosage of these problems. All these factors lead us to be just an inch or two more politicised than others in order to survive and chart the course of our lives in the years ahead.

Roderick Conway Morris

The Roman historian Suetonius' account of the reign of Tiberius AD 14-55 is now perceived chiefly noted for the emperor's alleged sexual excesses on Capri. Suetonius also recorded that Tiberius was "among the Trivium" in addition to Trivium-type teachers on a per subject, ancient psychology, such as "Who is Hebe's mother?"

Hebe's mother? The Sirens? What were the Sirens? The habit of singing? In fact, Tiberius was a keen and accomplished classical scholar, and this gave some credence to what led to his exile in Capri on the island of Capri.

At Sperlonga, 120 kilometres south of Rome, an extraordinary scene is depicted that has been dubbed an "Odyssey scene", illustrating key episodes in Homer's story. It was attributed to a Greek artist, and his work was seen by the monks of the 11th century. Some archaeologists believed it was a 7th century fragment of the 5th century. It was found in the cave floor and formed the basis for a reconstruction.

Ten years on, Andrea achieved his dream, the recreation of this scene of monumental stature. The dramatic scene of "Ulysses' Myth" (Odyssey) at the Palazzo Esposizioni, Rome, includes more than 200 arches and classical works inspired by Greek and Latin literature. It was what the hero and his crew were doing in ancient civilisation in general and in particular, the Phoenician, who is beyond words in wisdom, he is not only an example of great intelligence and sense, but also a quintessential human wanderer, a depiction of a hero's sorrows and sufferings, as his triumphs, presented as a special challenge to the assembly of the

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The Odyssey in Stone — a brilliant reconstruction

By Roderick Conway Morris

ROME — The Roman historian Suetonius's account of the reign of Tiberius (A.D. 14-37) is now perhaps chiefly noted for the writer's salacious detailing of the emperor's alleged sexual excesses on Capri. But Suetonius also recorded as among Tiberius's vices his addiction to Trivial Pursuit-type teasers on his pet subject, ancient mythology, such as: "Who was Hecuba's mother?" and "What were the Sirens in the habit of singing?"

In fact, Tiberius was undoubtedly a keen and accomplished classical scholar, and this goes some way to explaining what led him to create in a cave (spelunca in Latin) on the seashore at Sperlonga, about 120 kilometres south of Rome, an extraordinary marble scenario that has been dubbed an "Odyssey in Stone," illustrating key episodes in Homer's story. This was smashed to smithereens by Abbot Fortunato and his 200 monks in 511. Nonetheless, the German archaeologist Bernard Andreae believed that the 7,000 fragments that survived buried in the sands of the cave floor could form the basis for a reconstruction.

Thirty years on, Andreae has achieved his dream, and the recreation of this cycle of monumental statuary forms the dramatic focus of "Ulysses: Myth and Memory," at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni, which also includes more than 200 archaic and classical works inspired by Ulysses, and casts brilliant light on what the hero and the myths surrounding him meant to ancient civilisation in general and Tiberius in particular. Described by Zeus in the Odyssey as "godlike Odysseus, who is beyond all mortals in wisdom," he was not only an example of supreme intelligence and experience, but also a quintessential human wanderer, the depiction of whose sorrows and sufferings, as well as triumphs, presented artists with a special challenge.

The reassembly of the



Marble head of Ulysses

Sperlonga Odyssey would not have been possible, said Andreae, had not so many images of the same scenes come down to us. Far from trying to illustrate the whole of Homer's epics, artists focused on relatively few incidents. Prominent among these were the blinding of the one-eyed Cyclops, Polyphemus, and the escape of Ulysses and his men from the giant cannibal's cave, and Ulysses' successful navigation of the whirlpool Charybdis and the sea-monster Scylla, a beautiful girl to the waist, but whose lower parts consisted of a pack of ravening dogs and a pair of scaly fish-tails (this version of Scylla's form owing more to Ovid than Homer).

The reconstruction of the Sperlonga cycle, which in its original cave setting (used by Tiberius as a banquet hall) consisted of groups of statuary on man-made islands in the artificial lake, is displayed in the Palazzo delle Esposizioni's cavernous main hall — an awkward space that, for once, provides an ideal theatre for the exhibit. On one side is the scene of Ulysses recovering the body and arms of the slain Achilles, and on the other, Ulysses and Diomedes stealing the Palladium (Troy's sacred protecting statue of the goddess Pallas Athene), both these acts

deemed essential for the Greeks' victory over Troy.

In the background, is a huge composition of Ulysses and his men driving their sharpened tree-trunk into the eye of the Cyclops, who lies befuddled by the wine with which our hero has plied him. But centre stage is occupied by a towering representation of the stern of Ulysses' ship being rowed past Scylla, who has wrenched off the steering oar and whose girdle of ghastly hounds and fishy tails have already seized six sailors, dragging them to their doom.

The marble for the Scylla group has been traced back to quarries near Afyon in Turkey. The stone would have weighed about 80 tonnes, and yet the Romans managed to carry it down to the coast and ship it from Ephesus to Sperlonga. Andreae's investigations at the source also turned up a remarkable find. The upper part of Scylla's body had been destroyed by the monks — very likely because it represented the naked torso of a young girl. But at Afyon a one-fifth-size torso carved of the same marble transported to Sperlonga came to light, and appears to have been copied from the model brought to the quarries by the Greek sculptors when they went there to select their materials — giving Andreae and

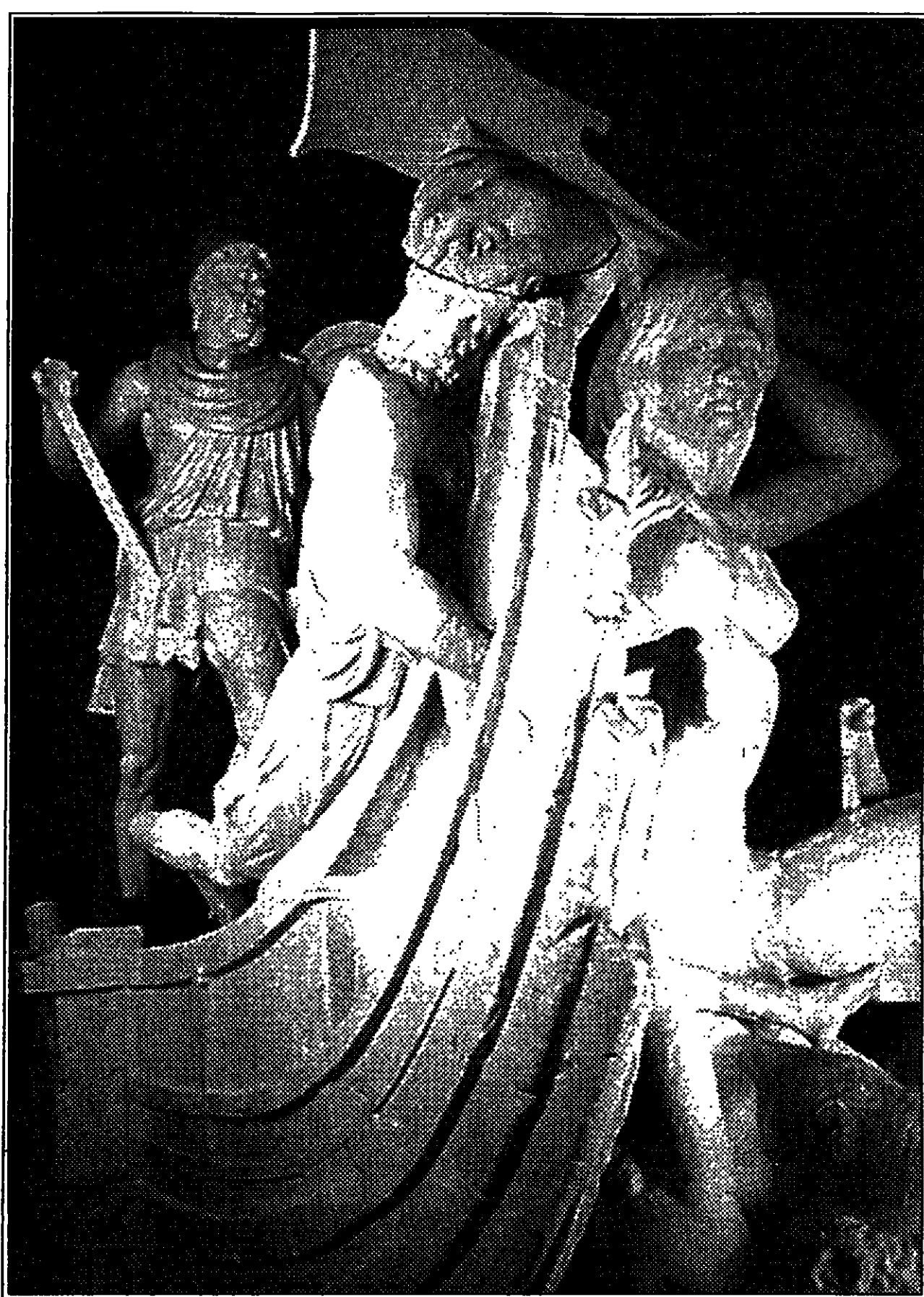
his team an almost certain replica to work from.

The Sperlonga Scylla was regarded as a major achievement in its day, and it was one of only three sculptures (the others being the Laocöon statue now in the Vatican and the Farnese Bull in Naples) chosen for a series of commemorative medals cast in Late Antiquity representing what were then seen as epoch-making works of art.

The legend that Aeneas, having escaped the fall of the Troy, ended up in Italy, thereby playing a leading role in the eventual foundation of Rome (indeed, that had Troy not fallen, Rome would never have been founded), was already well established by the time of the writing of Virgil's Aeneid, but it was this poet (who died in 19 B.C.) who enshrined it in its full-blown form as official national mythology. In this sense, the Sperlonga complex can be seen as a state monument alluding to the origins of the Eternal City.

But, as Andreae cogently argues, Sperlonga was more specifically an elaborate sculptured affirmation of Tiberius's legitimacy as supreme ruler, for Tiberius's Julio-Claudian family, which was to supply Rome with its first five emperors, claimed Aeneas as an ancestor on the Julian side, and Telegonos — the son of Ulysses by the sorceress Circe — on the Claudian.

The intricacy of the symbolism at Sperlonga is attested by the statue of Ganymede, placed high over the mouth of cave (and here in the dome of the Palazzo's hall). "Because the first of this complicated chain of events was the abduction of the beautiful boy Ganymede by Zeus to be his cup bearer, which aroused the jealousy of Hera, which brought about the Judgment of Paris to see who was the most beautiful of the Immortals, which led to the Rape of Helen, the Trojan War, the flight of Aeneas, the wanderings of Ulysses and the foundation of Rome," said Andreae, summing up the



The reconstruction of the Scylla group from a cave at Sperlonga

Iliad, Odyssey and Aeneid with virtuosio succinctness. The show's gathering together of some of the

finest ceramics, statuary, reliefs, seals and metalwork picturing Ulysses and his adventures, from

more than 90 museums, the like of which we are unlikely to see for a very long time, is a continual

delight.

International Herald Tribune

U.S. unlikely to challenge Netanyahu's views on peace

(Continued from page 1)

implemented within "the context of reality" was the most revealing of the administration approach to all of the Arab-Israeli tracks.

For while Washington remains supportive of the principle of land-for-peace, it does not believe that the principle necessarily means the implementation of United Nations resolutions 242 and 425.

This American approach, the analysts say, will give Mr. Netanyahu enough manoeuvring space and flexibility to contend that his government remains committed to the peace process.

So far U.S. officials seem willing to accept Mr. Netanyahu's words at face

value. "Christopher told us that Netanyahu was seriously committed to the peace process. We are puzzled as to what peace process is Netanyahu is committed to," according to a senior Palestinian official speaking from Gaza.

Yet what seems puzzling in the Middle East is not a puzzle in Washington. To seasoned analysts and observers here, regardless of their political affiliations, maintaining a strong Israeli-American alliance remains at the heart of U.S. policy.

Moreover, President Bill Clinton — conscious of next November's presidential elections — will try to avoid friction with the pro-Israel lobby in the U.S. For although the American Jewish community is divided

on the new Likud government, the Republican dominated Congress is sympathetic to Mr. Netanyahu's emphasis on Israeli security.

Mr. Netanyahu, who is expected to arrive in Washington on Monday, will address Congress on Wednesday where many influential Congress leaders share his call for a tougher stand against Syria.

However, the Clinton administration prefers a different approach that will ensure keeping Syria in the peace process. U.S. ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk has already cautioned Israel against attempts of dealing with Syria as "a rogue state."

Mr. Indyk's remarks, published in the Jerusalem Post two last week, indicated

that the Clinton administration still shares the approach of former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres who had advocated a territorial compromise with Syria in return for normalisation of relations.

But the new Israeli government, according to different sources in Washington, maintains an influential lobby that is still campaigning to isolate Syria.

Pro-Likud columnists in the American press, such as A.B. Rosenthal and William Safire of the New York Times, have been actively advocating tough measures against Damascus.

Even columnists like Thomas Friedman, who had openly campaigned for Mr. Peres during the elections, have repeatedly singled out

Syria as the obstacle to peace in the region.

"There is a real opportunity to pressure Damascus but the administration is reluctant," says an analyst who is affiliated with a pro-Israeli think tank.

The analysts, who are in touch with the State Department, say that the American government has based its calculations on a potential land-for-peace compromise between Syria and Israel. But when Mr. Peres lost, the administration sought a new approach that will accommodate the new government, they say.

So far a total isolation of Syria does not appear to be a strong option, unless Mr. Netanyahu manages to win even stronger support in Congress than he himself expects.

France hails Saudi's 'moderate Islamism'

(Continued from page 1)

In earlier talks, Saudi King Fahd urged renewed global efforts to spark life into the Middle East peace process, which has ground to a halt since headline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took power in Israel, officials in Mr. Chirac's entourage said.

King Fahd explicitly endorsed the right of Israel to exist during their talks, the officials added.

Mr. Chirac and King Fahd conferred for nearly 90 minutes late on Saturday after a men-only state dinner in Mr. Chirac's honour hosted by the king.

Also on Saturday, Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan and his French counterpart Charles Millon held talks aimed at reaffirming cooperation between the two countries but not at signing any new arms deals, the official Saudi Press Agency reported, quoting Prince Sultan.

Mr. Millon is one of four ministers accompanying Mr. Chirac on his visit to the kingdom, his first since he became head of state nearly 14 months ago.

Prince Sultan said any new agreement "would come about, God willing, when the time is right and the juncture is right."

Egypt rebuffs Syria's attempt

(Continued from page 1)

support terrorists," Dr. Baz said.

He said the Iranian leadership should also "stop trying to exert pressure on the Arab states in the Gulf."

Gulf Arab countries have accused Tehran of supporting Shiites agitating for the restoration of parliament in Bahrain. Iran is also locked in dispute with the United Arab Emirates over control of three strategic Gulf islands.

"These are all reasons for the differences with Iran," Dr. Baz said.

Most Arab countries, with their predominantly Sunni Muslim populations, have viewed majority Shiite Iran

with suspicion since the revolution that swept the shah out of power in 1979 and brought in a strict theocracy.

Dr. Baz said Egypt did not believe that a military cooperation accord signed by Turkey and Israel would push Iran and Syria into closer military ties, but he urged Turkey's new Islamist-led government to reconsider its pact.

"We don't believe that Turkey is on the way to a military alliance with Israel," Dr. Baz said. "We trust that Turkey will think twice before it gets involved in anything like that."

Mr. Mubarak is to visit Turkey later this year after

an invitation by his Turkish counterpart Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish ambassador in Cairo told AFP on Sunday.

"During his visit to Cairo last March, Mr. Demirel invited Mr. Mubarak to visit Turkey and it was agreed that the visit would be made in the second half of this year," Yasar Yakis said.

"The agreement is still on, but the final date of the visit has not been set," the ambassador added.

The visit by Mr. Mubarak will be preceded by still-undetermined visits by Dr. Al Baz and Prime Minister Kamal Al Ganzuri, he said.

White mother, black son, pride and abundant love

By James McBride

SOUTH NYACK, New York — When I was a little boy, my older brother Richie would often try to dupe me into believing I was adopted. It was easy enough.

My mother is white. My 11 siblings including Richie are black. Growing up, I looked nothing like our biological mother, a Jewish immigrant from Poland.

Neither, of course, did Richie, but his power over me defied all logic. So anytime I got on his nerves, which was often enough, his ruse would begin. "You're adopted, man," he would say. "Mommy's not your real mother. Your real mother's in jail. And she's coming to get you soon."

To this day, I remember the great fear my brother's words would stir in me. Although I was often embarrassed that my mother was one of the few whites in my community, the idea of being forced to leave her for my "true" mother, whatever her race, was unthinkable. There was no one I loved more than this white woman who got off the subway at 2 a.m., walked home alone, staggered up to our bedrooms, exhausted, and checked on each of us by touching us lightly on the forehead and covering us up as we snored away, three to a bed in our tattered Fruit of the Looms.

The memory springs to mind with the Clinton administration's proposal to

make it easier for couples to adopt children with different racial backgrounds.

The bill, approved in the House and expected to pass the Senate this summer, would also give a tax credit of up to \$5,000 to most families who adopt children of any race.

For once, our politicians have got it right. Mixed-race families and interracial adoption have long been a fact of life. My best friend in childhood was Puerto Rican, adopted by a black woman. My black cousin in Boston adopted a white son nearly 20 years ago.

I know of white couples who have adopted black children. These people don't see themselves as odd but as families. They don't view their children as symbols of cultural oppression but as their children.

Those who argue against interracial adoption often assume that white parents will not provide the cultural information needed to maintain a child's heritage. That is not always true. All my siblings have pride in their black heritage; one is a professor of African-American history at Penn State University.

Besides, I'd rather see a black child holding the hand of a white, yuppie mom and talking, thinking and acting "white" (whatever that is) than being bounced around foster homes and never knowing real love. If a child doesn't get love, education, discipline, religion (your preference) and, most important,

a place to call home, all the culture in the world is not going to make that child a capable, functioning adult.

For Indians, the adoption bill presents a special problem. It would move custody proceedings from tribal courts to state courts in cases involving children whose biological parents do not maintain "significant social, cultural or political affiliation with the tribe." The bill doesn't define this "significant" affiliation, so state courts — not known for a deep understanding of Indian culture — may wind up deciding what it means. Even so, I would argue that if a child is loved and educated, at some point his own blood, his own soul and the spirit of his ancestors will rise up within him, and his true cultural identity will emerge.

Self-discovery is usually a conscious choice. It happens later in life, most often to adults who have enjoyed a full childhood.

If I were a kid waiting for a home, I wouldn't want a bunch of social workers or tribal leaders whose historically justified anger is tumbling over their reason to stand between me and the parents who might be the family I so desperately need.

The writer is author of "The Colour of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother." This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

World military spending falls to three-decade low

WASHINGTON (R) — World military spending fell to a 28-year low in 1994, largely due to declines in the recession-hit former Soviet Union and eastern Europe, the U.S. government has reported.

But the report by the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) said that East Asia bucked the trend with steadily rising expenditure.

The agency also reported a continuing fall in the global arms trade, with Russian exports plummeting and the United States increasingly dominating a declining market.

"There have been gratifying declines in militarisation in many areas of the world," ACDA Director John Holm said in a foreword to the annual study, "World Military Expenditures and Arms Transfers".

"In some of these areas, however, the reductions have been caused by serious economic difficulties and may not be durable," Mr. Holm cautioned. "In other areas there are signs of new buildups in forces."

The report said that in 1994, the latest year for which figures are available, total military spending of all countries fell to \$840 billion in 1994, 35 per cent below the 1987 peak of \$1.3 trillion.

This was the lowest level since 1966. But the vast majority of the savings occurred in the former Communist Bloc where there were major falls in gross national product.

Military spending by the constituent states of the former Soviet Union fell nearly 70 per cent between 1990 and 1994.

By contrast, U.S. military spending fell only 15 per cent since the cold war ended in 1990, and the U.S. share of world spending rose from 26 per cent in 1984 to 34 per cent a decade later.

The United States spent more on the military in 1994 than the next five largest spenders combined.

In East Asia, military expenditure has been rising steadily over the past decade, and China and Japan are the third and

fourth largest spenders in the world. The region has become the world's third largest defence spender after North America and western Europe.

In 1994, the global arms trade dropped to \$22 billion, according to preliminary estimates, compared with an \$83 billion peak a decade earlier and 22 per cent down from 1993.

Despite a steady drop in U.S. arms exports from \$21 billion in 1987 to \$12 billion in 1994, they accounted for 56 per cent of the world trade in 1994. In the same period Soviet and Russian exports plunged from \$23 billion to \$1.3 billion.

The report said the Middle East continued to be the main arms importing region, accounting for 43 per cent of total imports in 1992-94. Saudi Arabia was the top importer in 1994 with \$5.2 billion.

The world's armed forces have declined at four per cent annually since 1990, mainly due to a drop at twice that rate in eastern Europe, the report found.

IMF focusing on Egyptian privatisation

CAIRO (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is focusing on the Egyptian government's privatisation programme in discussions on an agreement which could cut Egypt's foreign debt by \$4 billion, an IMF director said.

Executive Director Abdul Shaukat Shaalan, in an interview in the French-language weekly *Al-Ahram Hebdo* Wednesday, also said a devaluation of the Egyptian pound was off the agenda.

Serious talks between Egypt and the IMF resumed earlier this year after a gap of more than one year.

The Egyptian government's aim is to win IMF approval for its economic reforms — a condition for the Paris Club to write off the official debts worth \$4 billion under a phased agreement signed back in 1991.

"The negotiations continue," said Mr. Shaalan. "Egypt has given the IMF a report on the third part of the economic reform programme: Structural reform."

He said the emphasis was on increasing exports and attracting investment. "But the clearest reform for us remains the privatisations,"

he added. The government has accelerated the privatisation programme and recently, for the first time, it sold off a majority stake in two companies through the stock exchange. Most of the issues have been heavily oversubscribed.

"The very favourable reaction is encouraging the government to continue," Mr. Shaalan said. "It's up to the private sector to step in to achieve growth of seven per cent a year."

"With overstaffing in public-sector companies, privatisation will increase unemployment in the short term," he added.

Asked if the IMF and Egypt were discussing devaluation, he said: "Devaluing the Egyptian pound is off the agenda."

In earlier stages of talks in 1994, the IMF had pressed Egypt to devalue to stimulate exports. Late last year IMF officials agreed to play down this recommendation.

Meanwhile, Egyptian businessmen and economists, calling the government's attempts at privatisation half-hearted, urged it Tuesday to relinquish control over the public sector to ignite an economic boom.

Businessmen's Association (EBA), they lauded the six-month old government for accelerating its sluggish privatisation programme but said partial sell-offs and stagnant management policies were not the answer.

"Get the state out of the production sector. The public sector was set up on communist principles and those have failed miserably. Privatisation is not selling 10 or 20 per cent, it's a change in management," said prominent economist Saeed al-Naggar.

Since Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri and his more reform-minded cabinet were appointed in January, the state has offered equity stakes in at least seven firms but stopped short of relinquishing control of all but two.

In the last three years Egypt has sold three other firms by private placement but has recently pledged quicker reforms and a more active dismantling of the public sector which investors see as a relic of the socialist government of late president Gamal Abdul Nasser.

"We are privatising too slowly, we're missing chances of taking a role in the world economy and we can not do that if the state controls most of the economy. How attractive is that to investors?" EBA head Saeed al-Tawil told the conference.

On Sunday, the government Al-Akbar daily said the state has sold in the past six months shares worth 574 million pounds to private investors but the World

Bank — which along with the International Monetary Fund backs the privatisation programme — says it's the ideology and not quantity that counts.

"The issue is less about the number and value of the assets sold than about the perceived willingness to swiftly relinquish control on a continuous growing basis," the organisation said in a 1994 report on private sector development in Egypt.

Leading management consultant Hazem Hassan, whose firm represents international accountants KPMG in Egypt, predicted that if the privatisation programme continued at this sluggish rate, the state would have to wait 20 years to reap any reward.

"The main obstacles to privatisation are state-generated and they are the ones slowing it down," he said.

"The government has plenty of excuses — there is no one to buy, it takes so long to fix up a company to make it attractive to sell — but all these are unjustified," he added.

The state's so-called "public sector breed", the businessmen said, are psychologically ill-equipped to sell its assets but they are the ones commissioned to do so.

"Everyone is committed to privatisation but there's a gap in the size of the pyramid of Cheops in the government's policy and the actions of its employees," said Mohammed Nosseir, who bought Pepsi Cola/Egyptian bottling from the state in 1994.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 8, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You get fine ideas and should put them in operation quickly today, since later, prominent persons could deter your progress. This evening you can meet with some bigwig and plan out how you can proceed with some project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Keep quiet for a while and let good ideas pervade your consciousness today, then you can forge ahead quickly with some new ideas. Later tonight will be good to spend this time with your loved ones in some special activity.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A clever friend has the right course of action for you to follow today if you want to get rid of your difficulties so it would be good to follow this advice. This evening is good for meeting with some knowledgeable person.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get fine talents to the attention of a bigwig today and gain support for them easily which will make you successful. Avoid disagreements with your loved ones and you will retain the harmony which existed there previously.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day today to make that change you have been contemplating for some time. Plan a trip with your fellow associates which can bring greater success to you and your loved ones in the days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Change your attitude toward your mate and avoid a disagreement later on. Show your loyalty and don't go off on any departures which could be difficult. Later this evening enjoy yourself with your loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Listen to what a clever fellow associate has to suggest and follow advice given to you today. Don't permit a family affair to upset you at this time and show that you are loyal to those who live under your roof.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you get into your career activities enthusiastically today, you can accomplish more than you think possible. This evening should be spent with your loved ones in those activities which everyone enjoys and have some fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make arrangements for amusements for the days ahead, however be sure to count the cost which could be involved. Handle business affairs wisely at this time and you can gain the success which you desire.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Study how to get your home improved today with the okay of your loved ones, however don't be too forceful in trying to get your way or there could be great difficulty with your mate and your family.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get busy early today since you can accomplish much more than usual and gain the recognition of those in authority. Don't permit a secret concern deter you from accomplishing your desires for business success and prestige.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You know how to gain more of life's blessings today, so go after them early this morning. Steer clear of a close friend who is trying to be forceful and grab all of the glory for him or herself and leave you behind.

Birthingstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

India halves diesel price hike after public outcry

NEW DELHI (R) — India announced Sunday it was halving the increase in the price of diesel after a major price hike in petroleum prices three days ago touched off a public outcry and nationwide protests.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Srikanth Jena told a news conference the increase in diesel price would be scaled back to 15 per cent from 30 per cent.

But Mr. Jena said price increases for other oil products, including petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), would remain unchanged.

On Wednesday, the government increased the price of petrol by 25 per cent, while diesel, LPG, paraffin wax and fuel oil were raised by 30 per cent.

On Saturday, officials said Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda had asked the petroleum min-

istry, which he heads, to reduce the recent increases in petroleum prices.

Mr. Jena said India's state subsidies on petroleum products were among the highest in the world. "This usually only benefits the rich and hurts the poor," he said.

But, he added: "The price of diesel has a direct impact on many sectors like public transport, agriculture operations as well as indirect impact in the price rise on account of its cascading effect. The government has therefore decided to reduce the price of diesel."

The government had estimated Wednesday's price increase would push up the wholesale price index by 1.2 per cent. Mr. Jena said Sunday's reduction in diesel prices would bring down the increase to 0.9 per cent.

Foreign investors said reducing holdings in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign financial investors have reduced their portfolios of Israeli shares, the managing director of Lehman Brothers in Israel said.

Speaking at a seminar, Ron Lubach said investors cut their holdings just before May 29 general elections due to the uncertainty in Israel and to the attractiveness of other markets that were booming.

"The investors are in a holding pattern waiting to see what will happen with (Israeli) growth in 1996 and what will happen next week in Washington," Mr. Lubach told Reuters after the seminar.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to fly to Washington on July 8 and is expected to face pressure from the U.S. administration to move the Middle East peace process

forward. The peace process was one of the key factors behind the rise in foreign interest in Israel in recent years. Foreign financial investors want to see growth and stability, both on the economic and political front, Mr. Lubach said.

Strategic investments, on the other hand, have not been affected by the elections, he said.

Mr. Lubach noted there was a great deal of foreign investment in the Israeli

high-tech sector but he said foreigners were also interested in Israeli infrastructure, which has been relatively closed to foreigners. He urged the government to open up projects for roads, ports, airports and energy to foreigners.

Bank of Israel senior director David Klein said the two biggest threats to growth in Israel are inflation and the current account deficit in the balance of payments.

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

- Ova
- Ms. Garbo
- old cowhand...
- Happy tune
- Sublease
- 1492 ship
- Naval enlisted man
- WWII invasion date
- Ingredient
- Ceases
- Ike's command
- Ark builder
- Shaded recesses
- Alan or Robert
- Sprite
- Climbing vines
- Crawl
- Legume
- Hackman or Kelly
- In front
- General Bradley
- CA fort
- Quail
- Obscure
- Mahal
- Sacred chest
- Makes amends
- Nora's dog
- Magnon
- Guests
- Act undertaken to satisfy one's vanity
- Citrus fruit
- Venetian boatmen
- On the briny
- Sea eagles
- Family member
- Work benefit, of a kind
- Thin
- OED word

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DOWN

- River to the North Sea
- Liquid measure
- Paste
- Stalk
- Cary and Ulysses
- Right-hand page
- Wapiti
- off (annoyed)
- Was present at
- New Delhi's land
- Naval student
- Medical subj.
- Refusals
- Makes catcalls
- Lather
- Intolerant one
- barrel (at disadvantage)
- Large ship
- Wide shoe width
- Stadium
- Drip
- Union general
- Curtails
- Stylish
- Organizer
- Expression of surprise
- Facts
- Backless chair
- Fleet of merchant ships
- Talk
- Relinquished
- Applaud
- French river
- Olden times
- Fourth dimension
- Raise
- Showy flower
- Examy letters
- Vane dir.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

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EXPLAIN TO ME HOW \$3,000 WORTH OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT EQUALS "FREE"

Peanuts

IF ANYONE MENTIONS SUMMER CAMP TO ME THIS YEAR, I'M GONNA FREAK OUT...

SUMMER CAMP

THAT WAS ME FREAKING OUT...

Andy Capp

YOU CAN GUESS HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN MARRIED — NOW WE KISSE ME TO GOO ME DOWN

Mutt'n'Jeff

IF YOU CAN BRING IN CUSTOMERS FOR ME TO SELL TO, THE JOB IS YOURS!

NO, I DON'T NEED A SUIT! THIS ONE IS O.K.

TURN AROUND LET ME SEE!

O.K. BOSS! START SELLING!

Middle East bank may be doomed

from the Jerusalem Post

BARRING A last-minute rescue by Prime Minister Netanyahu, the Middle East Bank is doomed to be liquidated.

The formation of the bank was the centrepiece of the U.S.-backed economic reconstruction plan at the heart of Shimon Peres' vision of a new Middle East.

But sources say the Netanyahu government did not send signals to Washington expressing support for the bank, despite the fact it was meant to express a view of the bank was not part of the House of Representatives' foreign and legislative appropriations.

Co-financing did not include the \$1.5 billion for the bank, which is meant to reach the bank within the next two years.

The U.S. had originally agreed to provide more than \$200 million, or 21 per cent, of the bank's start-up capital over five years. The money was to finance infrastructure projects in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, or autonomous Palestinian areas.

Mr. Peres had lobbied strenuously on behalf of the bank, and by getting rich countries to endorse the notion, and around the Clinton administration to support the endeavour.

In so far as the Netanyahu government is not promised the aid, while some say the aid was raised in the past a few days ago, a view by some that should be supported, it means unclear whether Netanyahu will now seriously fight for the aid or only voice pro forma backing.

Republicans in Congress have been generally sceptical of regional development banks, and slashed U.S. support for other such regional banks for the next fiscal year.

The Clinton administration still favours the aid, but so far its view has not been accepted by a congressional committee.

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Umm Uthman behind San Rock Hotel

Middle East bank may be doomed

From the Jerusalem Post

BARRING A last-minute push by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his visit to Washington this week, congressional funding for a planned Middle East Development Bank is liable to be eliminated.

The formation of the bank was the centerpiece of the U.S.-backed Amman economic conference last fall and has been at the heart of Shimon Peres's vision of a "New Middle East."

But sources say the Netanyahu government has not sent signals to Washington expressing its support of the bank, despite the fact it was asked to express a view. The bank was not part of the House of Representatives foreign aid legislation, and the Senate Appropriations Committee did not include it in the \$12.5 billion foreign aid bill which is expected to reach the floor within the next two weeks.

The U.S. had originally agreed to provide more than \$260 million, or 21 per cent, of the bank's start-up capital over five years. The money was to finance infrastructure projects in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, or autonomous Palestinian areas.

Mr. Peres had lobbied strenuously on behalf of the bank, and by getting Arab countries to endorse the notion, turned around the Clinton administration to support the endeavour.

Yet, so far, the Netanyahu government has not prioritised the bank. While some say the issue was raised in the cabinet a few days ago with a view by some that it should be supported, it remains unclear whether Mr. Netanyahu will now personally fight for the bank or only voice pro forma backing.

Republicans in Congress have been generally more sceptical of regional development banks, and slashed U.S. support for other such regional banks for the next fiscal year.

The Clinton administration still favours the bank, but so far its view has not been accepted by any congressional committee.

Stiff competition, rigid pricing stifle pharmaceuticals industry

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, which produce over 10 per cent of the Kingdom's total exports, are threatened by mounting competition and the government's inflexible pricing system.

"We have repeatedly asked the government to raise pharmaceuticals' prices, and if our requests are not met, we will be compelled to withdraw some products from the local market," warned Mazen Darwazeh, general manager of Hikma Pharmaceuticals.

After a quality control carried on in the labs of the Ministry of Health, each

pharmaceutical product in Jordan is registered and priced by a government technical committee.

Regardless of the date of registration of the product, pharmaceutical prices have rarely undergone adjustments so far.

Aware of the difficulties caused to the manufacturers by the fact that an antibiotic registered ten years ago is being sold on the local market today at the same price fixed by the Ministry of Health at the date of its registration, the government is "caught between the rock and the hard place" between the needs of the people and the requests of the manufacturers.

"We understand the situation and are considering

raising prices, but, as a Ministry of Health, we also have to ensure to the people their right to health," director of Drugs Directorate, Meisa' Saket told the Jordan Times.

Public health institutions, such as the Royal Medical Services, the Jordan University medical services and other institutions under the Ministry of Health, provide medical assistance to over 80 per cent of Jordan's population and 70 per cent of the drugs they dispense are manufactured locally.

Nevertheless, local drugs account only for less than 30 per cent of the value of Jordan's total drugs consumption, Dr. Saket said.

The pricing system adopted by the technical commit-

tee of the Ministry of Health for both local and imported drugs is based on the availability and quality of the product as well as the prices of competitive and similar products.

"To price imported pharmaceuticals we usually use as a base their prices in the country of origin," Dr. Saket said.

But such common practice of considering the product's price in the country of origin, is also widely followed in pricing procedures worldwide and, while it makes imported products less competitive on the Jordanian domestic market, it also makes the export of Jordanian drugs to other countries less profitable.

Considering that 85 per

cent of Jordan's pharmaceutical production is exported, losses for manufacturers are significant.

Voicing the discontent of pharmaceutical manufacturers, Mr. Darwazeh, whose Hikma Pharmaceuticals with JD 21.5 million of pharmaceuticals exported in 1995, is on top of the list of the eight Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturing companies. According to sources at the Ministry of Health, the situation has worsened to an unacceptable extent especially after the 1989 devaluation of the Jordanian dinar.

"Since 1989, the losses of the Jordanian pharmaceutical companies from sales to the Saudi Arabian market, one of the most profitable markets for Jordanian exporters, reached up to 70 per cent," he told the Jordan Times.

Due to the fact that international trade is conducted in hard currencies,

Dr. Saket admitted that while "changes in the prices of local pharmaceuticals rarely happen, prices of imported products change accordingly to the fluctuation of the exchange rates."

Despite the problems, the pharmaceutical sector is flourishing and, according to sources at the Ministry of Health, "six to eight new pharmaceutical manufacturing companies are expected to open within one year."

According to figures released for the Jordan Times by the Ministry of Health, local production of pharmaceuticals in 1995 amounted to over JD 161 million and, according to the Central Bank of Jordan monthly bulletin, exports of pharmaceuticals in the first three months of 1996 totalled about JD 22 million.

"In order to coordinate our production strategies and ease internal competi-

tion, we established one year ago the Union of Jordanian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (UJPM)," said Issam Saket, managing director at the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, the first pharmaceutical company that was set up back in 1964.

Noting that Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturers are "all addressing the same market with the same products," Mr. Saket stressed that each company should differentiate its production and specialise in a specific kind of drug in order to contain competition. He called for more coordination to prevent the market's saturation.

"So far the UJPM has provided manufacturers with a basis to get together, but much more needs to be done," Mr. Darwazeh told the Jordan Times.

Bahrain to allow foreign firm, bond listings

MANAMA (R) — The Bahrain Stock Exchange plans to open its doors to foreign companies and corporate bond listings from Sept. 1, its director Fawzi Behzad has said.

Mr. Behzad said the bourse, in the Gulf's banking and financial centre Bahrain, also had an ambitious plan to link Arab stock markets to revive share trading and boost capital flows.

Bahrain's exchange has a market capitalisation of some \$4.5 billion and turnover of just over two per cent.

"The programme was that by the second half of August we will be prepared to receive applications and by Sept. 1 we will be able to review and approve applications of foreign firms," Mr. Behzad told Reuters in an interview.

The same would apply to corporate bonds. Bahrain and Oman began cross-listing shares on each

other's markets in March 1995 in the first such step in the Gulf. Oman allows foreign investors to buy up to 49 per cent of Omani firms. In special cases foreigners can hold up to 65 per cent.

Three Omani firms are listed on the Bahrain exchange.

Bahrain and Jordan agreed this year to allow cross-listings, but there are yet to be any.

Mr. Behzad said among requirements needed to list a publicly-traded foreign firm were a minimum paid-in capital of \$10 million, a profit record for the preceding three years and at least 100 shareholders.

If the company is not yet publicly traded in its home country, it should be planning to go public and it should have a representative office in Bahrain.

The companies will have to publish six month results and audited annual results. Mr. Behzad said 32 of the 36 companies listed in

Bahrain allowed limited foreign ownership. Foreigners can own shares worth up to 24 per cent of a company's paid-in capital. Investors in other Arab Gulf states are able to own up to 49 per cent, Mr. Behzad said.

He said there was a three-way draft agreement to link bourses in Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait. The heads of the three markets would meet later this year to ratify the final plan.

A meeting between officials of the stock exchanges of Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan to lay the basis for the cross-listing of shares on those markets would be held later this month.

Mr. Behzad said he would welcome the listing of any firm from other Arab Gulf states which do not yet have their own formal trading floor: "I call on all Gulf companies to consider the importance of listing their shares on the Gulf bourses."

Average manpower hour in France costs about \$20

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Direct foreign investment in France grew seven-fold over 15 years to reach \$150 billion, and Paris hopes this will grow further, said Jean Daniel Tordjman, France's roving ambassador for investments.

Mr. Tordjman said France and Europe were "secure, stable markets" as com-

pared with emerging markets, notably in Asia, "where you can make money but where you might also lose your shirt."

Speaking at a news conference, Mr. Tordjman listed telecommunications as one of the areas where France is competitive.

In spite of high social costs, the average manpower

hour in France cost about \$20, slightly more than in the United States but well below Germany, where it is \$32, he said.

A number of U.S. firms recently announced major investments in France, notably Federal Express, which chose Roissy as its European hub.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
NOTING BANK CHIEF AMMAN - AMMAN									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 07/07/1996									
PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / S	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF ORDERS	VALUE	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
250.000	225.000	ARAB BANK	11.7	1.63	5	320	68700	215.00	214.90
2.700	2.220	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	4.9	0.54	5	4450	9475	2.12	2.13
8.180	4.280	THE HOUSING BK.	11.4	3.74	4	3350	14269	4.25	4.24
1.040	2.600	JOR. AGRICULT. BANK	19.6	0.00	5	220	593	2.71	2.71
1.300	1.900	JOR. CO-OP. BANK	7.5	0.00	13	47350	44036	3.93	3.93
3.950	3.700	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	39.3	0.00	2	600	2160	3.70	3.69
4.220	3.300	JOR. INV. TR. BANK	18.1	0.00	7	12304	37531	3.40	3.38
2.880	2.360	WEST. AGR. BANK (BRITISH)	1.5	0.00	1	500	1195	2.36	2.39
1.130	1.340	ARAB BANK INV.	9	0.00	7	173000	60783	1.34	1.33
1.740	1.000	PHILAD. INV. BK.	9	0.00	7	5650	5796	1.04	1.05
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 169.24 %CHG: -0.18									
2.910	2.150	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.1	9.30	2	880	1865	2.13	2.18
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 125.49 %CHG: 0.00									
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.2	8.16	23	7710	11377	1.48	1.47
2.330	1.150	KARL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	8	1800	2080	1.15	1.12
2.680	2.090	ARAB TRADING DEV. CO.	12.8	0.16	8	15047	48898	3.24	3.25
1.480	1.960	SARMA EDUCATION	9	0.00	14	9100	7489	1.96	1.95
2.460	1.870	UNIFIED CO.	9.6	8.72	7	4100	7458	1.90	1.81
1.300	1.670	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	2	480	403	1.92	1.89
SERVICES SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.75 %CHG: -0.43									
13.080	10.950	JOR. TOURISM & TRAV.	18.7	3.22	1	50	1129	21.80	22.58
1.260	1.170	ATKINSON	9	0.00	3	1380	1628	1.25	1.28
3.810	3.000	JOR. COMMER. FACT.	17.7	3.24	14	13298	41055	3.10	3.09
10.640	8.800	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	4.9	9.11	19	719	6360	8.80	8.78
7.000	7.000	JORDAN BANKING	7.2	0.00	11	1033	7489	7.25	7.25
5.300	3.320	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	18.5	8.92	11	2289	1266	3.30	3.37
2.630	1.710	JOR. PAPER MANUF.	9.5	7.02	4	1100	1881	1.71	1.71
2.530	1.520	BAVA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	1	280	365	1.52	1.46
8.000	4.550	ORAN ALUM. IND.	13.2	4.58	12	488	2024	4.55	4.45
5.900	3.180	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.1	15.50	12	1218	1266	3.25	3.20
1.740	1.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	8	4000	1883	1.45	1.46
1.900	1.140	ARAB PAPER CORP. LTD.	7.4	9.50	6	1200	1398	1.14	1.09
2.300	1.040	UNIFIED PETRO. CORP.	9	0.00	1	1880	3994	1.12	1.13
1.660	1.660	JOR. SULPHUR CORP.	9	0.00	1	570	1486	1.66	1.66
2.240	1.080	ARAB PHARM. CORP.	24.7	0.00	12	50	6821	1.38	1.32
1.820	1.300	KARL. INVEST.	44.9	4.80	1	150	43	1.30	1.35
3.450	1.890	UNIV. INDUS. TRD.	1.8	10.11	35	20590	3994	1.89	1.94
2.170	1.290	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	15.7	0.00	19	8700	11300	1.29	1.25
1.980	1.000	JOR. NEW CARLS CO.	27.2	0.00	15	3600	8603	1.01	1.00
2.490	1.780	TEL. NEW READY BAK.	7	0.00	4	1900	3450	1.81	1.80
2.490	1.780	TEL. NEW READY BAK.	26.6	0.00	12	6900	7782	1.78	1.78
2.300	1.190	UNION CR. & VES.	27.8	0.00	1	280	285	1.19	1.13
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 106.29 %CHG: -0.33									
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 137.61 %CHG: -0.26									
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 07/07/1996									
1.820	1.660	JOR. TRADE FAC.	17.3	0.00	1	800	328	1.66	1.65
1.980	1.880	KARL. COMMER. CHEMICAL	9	0.00	1	300	81	1.88	1.81
1.000	1.000	UNION INV. CO.	67.9	0.00	9	4800	1008	1.00	1.01
1.250	1.590	ARAB TR. INVEST.	9	0.00	28	31900	17844	1.59	1.56
1.870	1.380	KARL. CHEMICAL	9	0.00	13	5950	8231	1.40	1.39
1.790	1.520	ARAB TR. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	1	1000	830	1.55	1.52
1.140	1.520	KARL. TRADING	9	0.00	1	1000	810	1.52	1.51
1.000	1.680	KARL. TRADING	9	0.00	13	7850	8126	1.68	1.68
1.120	1.000	KARL. TRADING	9	0.00	2	2000	940	1.00	1.00
1.080	1.080	JORDAN SYRMA	9	0.00	10	5200	4111	1.08	1.08
1.000	1.000	UNION TRADING	9	0.00	7	8000	1900	1.00	1.00
1.710	1.100	UNION TRADING	9	0.00	1	1300	1157	1.10	1.10
1.920	1.480	TRUS. ENG.	29.0	0.00	13	4372	2040	1.48	1.47
1.820	1.820	TRUS. CERAMIC	9	0.00	2	1000	700	1.82	1.82
1.020	1.640	UNION TRADING	9	0.00	1	150	96	1.64	1.64
1.970	1.660	KARL. TRADING	9	0.00	4	10500	4200	1.66	1.65
1.900	1.660	KARL. TRADING	9	0.00	83	74750	40848	1.66	1.65
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 137.61 %CHG: -0.26									

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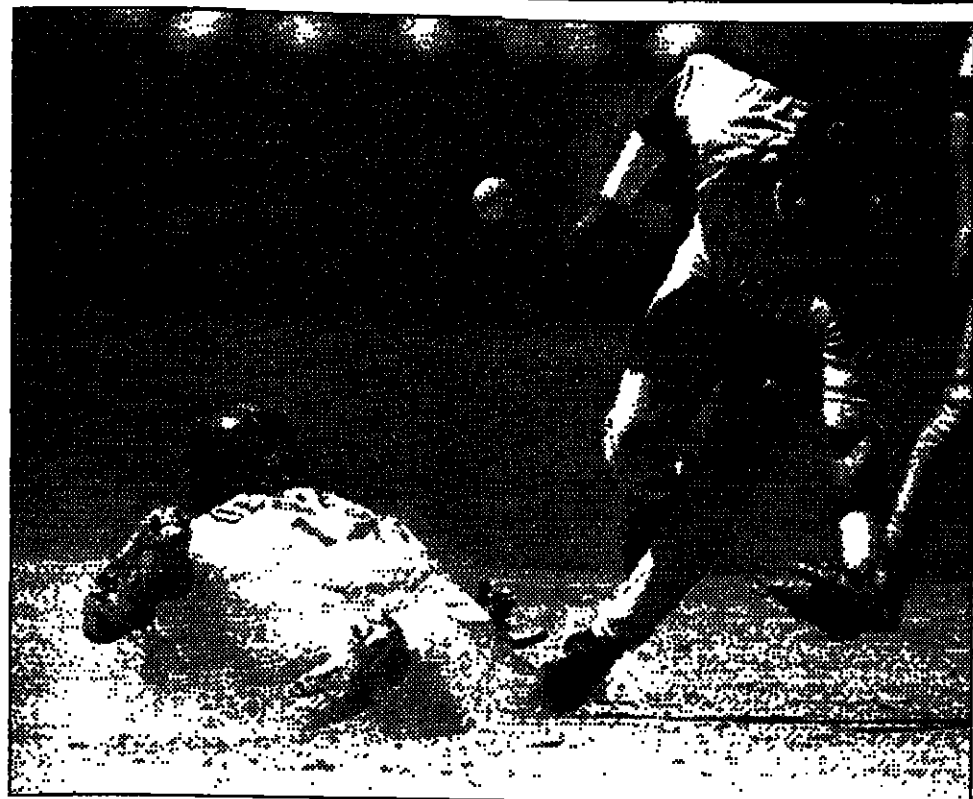
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Colorado Rockies' second baseman Eric Young (right) misplays the throw from catcher Jay Hawk Owens, allowing Los Angeles Dodgers' Delino Deshields (left) to steal second base in the sixth inning in Los Angeles. The Dodgers beat the Rockies 3-2 (Reuters photo)

Wetteland sets Major League record

NEW YORK (R) — John Wetteland broke a Major League record with a save in his 20th successive appearance, completing an eight-hitter Saturday that gave the New York Yankees their fifth straight win, a 2-0 blanking of the Milwaukee Brewers.

Wetteland struggled in the ninth inning, walking Kevin Seitzer and giving up a one-out infield single to Greg Vaughn. But he struck out John Jaha and retired Matt Mieske on a fly to shallow right to break the mark he shared with Lee Smith.

"I was with Lee Smith in 1993 when he set the record," said Yankees manager Joe Torre. "I was hoping Wetteland would get it tonight because it was important for the team tonight."

Wetteland has picked up a save in each appearance since May 31. This was his Major League-leading 29th of the season.

"It was really hard not to think about it," Wetteland said of the record. "My mother-in-law and her husband cancelled going to the 'King And I' tonight because they wanted to see me break the record."

Jimmy Key (5-6) overcame intestinal problems that sent him to the hospital earlier in the day and scattered six hits over six shutout innings for his third

straight win. Since coming off the disabled list on June 26, he is 3-0 and has given up one run in 21 innings.

Paul O'Neill and Tino Martinez delivered RBI singles for the Yankees (52-32), who have won 14 of their last 18 games and have the best record in the Major Leagues.

In Cleveland, Harold Baines's solo homer — his second of the game — off reliever Paul Shuey with one out in the ninth inning snapped a tie and lifted the Chicago White Sox past the Cleveland Indians 3-2.

Baines drove in all Chicago's runs, having smacked a two-run blast off starter Charles Nagy in the seventh for the White Sox, who have beaten Cleveland five times in seven games over the last two weekends.

Chicago now trails Cleveland by one game for the lead in the American League Central Division.

In Detroit, Carlos Delgado homered twice, including a shot over the roof in right, and Pat Hentgen threw a three-hitter as the Toronto Blue Jays blasted the Detroit Tigers 15-0.

Delgado, who has three homers in two games, drove in four runs and scored four times. After homering onto the roof Friday night, he belted a ball over it in the third, marking the 29th time a ball has been hit out of ageing Tiger Stadium.

"How could I not see it? It was right in front of me," Delgado said when asked if he admired the ball going out.

"That's an honour for me, but I can't just walk around saying, 'hey, I hit one out of Tiger Stadium.' I hit it good, but that's over. A home run is just one run. What I take pride in are my RBI. That means you're doing your job."

In Baltimore, rookie Rocky Coppinger notched his fourth straight win and Rafael Palmeiro and B.J. Surhoff each homered to lead the Orioles to a 4-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

Coppinger (4-0) allowed three runs on five hits before giving way in the sixth.

In Oakland, Rafael Bournigal drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs in the bottom of the 10th to score Ernie Young and lift the Athletics to a 6-5 win over the California Angels.

At Minnesota, Chris Haney pitched seven innings for his third straight win and Joe Vitiello and Michael Tucker each homered and drove in two runs to lead the Kansas City Royals to an 8-5 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

At Texas, Edgar Martinez hammered three home runs and shortstop Alex Rodriguez belted hit his third Grand Slam of the season as the Seattle Mariners continued their dominance over the Texas Rangers with a 9-5 win.

Krajicek overpowers Washington to win 1st Grand Slam title

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Richard Krajicek used his huge serve to overpower MaliVai Washington in straight sets Sunday and win Wimbledon for his first Grand Slam title.

In a match interrupted three times by rain, Krajicek served 14 aces and lost serve only once in a 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 victory.

In the first Wimbledon final between two unseeded players, Krajicek dominated from the start and became the first unseeded champion since Boris Becker in 1985.

Krajicek also became the first Dutch player to win a Grand Slam. Among those watching at centre court was former Dutch great Tom Okker, who lost in the final of the 1968 U.S. Open to Arthur Ashe.

Washington was the first black finalist since Ashe won Wimbledon in 1975.

The 6-foot-5 Krajicek used his height and power to maximum advantage on his budgeoning serves. Washington, at 5-foot-11 was left lunging time and again as Krajicek fired down serves at speeds of up to 129 mph (207.6 kph).

The match lasted 1 hour, 33 minutes of playing time, but also included rain delays totalling 2 hours, 40 minutes.

After a third interruption of 68 minutes, with Washington ahead 1-0 in the third set, Krajicek came out and ran off 14 straight points to move ahead 4-1.

Washington got his first break point of the match in the next game when Krajicek went down 0-40. He saved one break point but Washington converted on the next, forcing Krajicek into hitting a low backhand volley long.



MaliVai Washington of the U.S. sits during a changeover in the men's singles final against Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands at the Wimbledon tennis championships (Reuters photo)



Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands celebrates defeating MaliVai Washington of the U.S. to win the men's singles final at Wimbledon July 7. Krajicek won the match 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 (Reuters photo)

Navratilova's record hopes disappear

LONDON (AFP) — Martina Navratilova's dream of winning a record-equalling 20th Wimbledon title ended with a straight-sets defeat on the number-one show court at the All England Club here on Sunday.

Navratilova and fellow American Jonathan Stark crashed to Grant Connell of Canada and Lindsay Davenport of the United States in the quarter-finals of the mixed doubles.

The 39-year-old nine-times Wimbledon singles winner, who had been hoping to equal the all-time record of 20 titles held by Billie Jean King, went down 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/2) against the second-seeded Connell and Davenport.

Navratilova and Stark, won the mixed doubles event twelve months ago, were seeded fifth.

"I have no idea if I'll be back — I really don't," said Navratilova after the match.

She plucked a blade of grass from the court, which is due to be demolished later this year in the stadium's redevelopment plan, as she walked off court.

Cardinals overtake Pirates; Dodgers beat Rockies

PITTSBURGH (R) — Ron Gant hit a go-ahead two-run double in the fifth and Mark Sweeney added a two-run single in the sixth as the red-hot St. Louis Cardinals beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-5 Saturday to pull into a first-place tie in the Central Division.

St. Louis won its fifth straight game and eighth in nine to catch the Houston Astros atop the Central and send the reeling Pirates to their ninth loss in 12 games. The victory was the Cardinals' sixth straight over the

Pirates. In Atlanta, Mike Bielecki pitched three innings of three-hit emergency relief to earn his first win in a year and Marquis Grissom smacked a two-run homer as the Braves beat the Houston Astros 4-2, snapping their seven-game winning streak.

In Los Angeles, Mike Piazza's two-out, two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth gave the Los Angeles Dodgers their third straight win, 3-2 over the slumping Colorado Rock-

ies. Colorado, which has lost three straight, took a 2-1 lead into the eighth. Rookie Jamey Wright issued a lead-off walk to pinch-hitter

Roger Cedeno. Two outs later, with Cedeno on second, Piazza lined his 24th homer over the fence in right.

In San Diego, Tim Worrell scattered seven hits over six innings. Ken Caminiti doubled in two runs as the San Diego Padres defeated the San Francisco Giants for the eighth straight time, 7-2.

Major League results			
American League			
Baltimore	4	Boston	3
Chicago	3	Cleveland	2
Pittsburgh	15	Detroit	0
New York	2	Milwaukee	0
Oakland	6	California	5 (10 innings)
Kansas City	8	Minnesota	5
Seattle	9	Texas	5
National League			
New York	11	Montreal	3
Los Angeles	3	Colorado	2
Philadelphia	2	Florida	1
St. Louis	9	Pittsburgh	5
Atlanta	4	Houston	2
Chicago	6	Cincinnati	2
San Diego	7	San Francisco	3

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